

Hafa Adai!

Francisco M. Sablan Middle School promotes 88. **PAGE 2**  
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\$1

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## IPI says restructuring difficult sans reinstatement of license

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES  
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REPORTER

Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC, in another effort to get its license reinstated, informed the Commonwealth Commission board that should the federal bankruptcy court approve its financing request of \$6 million, it would like to negotiate the reinstatement of its license.



Chi

During a CCC board meeting last week, IPI director Howyo Chi informed the board that the federal bankruptcy court will be ruling on its debtor-in-possession (DIP) financing request for the remaining \$6 million of the \$7-million loan IPI

See IPI on Page 4

### Reduced FY25 budget proposed for Commerce



» **Acting secretary says to live within the CNMI's means**

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES  
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REPORTER

The Office of the Governor has proposed a reduced budget for the CNMI Department of Commerce for

See BUDGET on Page 4

KIMBERLY B. ESMORES

CNMI Department of Commerce acting secretary Francisco Cabrera and CNMI Department of Commerce's Division of Alcoholic Beverage and Tobacco Control director Dave Maratita appear before the House Standing Committee on Ways and Means for their budget hearing yesterday.

### Palacios attends Micronesian Islands Forum in Guam

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES  
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REPORTER



Gov. Arnold I. Palacios attended the 26th Micronesian Islands Forum which began yesterday in Guam. Last Friday, May 31, Palacios issued a memorandum to all department and agency heads stating that Lt. Gov. David M.

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### Cabrera, Lian are top Hopwood promotees

By LEIGH GASES  
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REPORTER

As they head into summer and transition from middle school to high school, 209

Hopwood Middle School promotees gathered with their friends and family during their promotion ceremony yesterday morning at their campus in Chalan Piao.

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## INSIDE



### LOCAL

The John S. McCain III National Center for Environmental Conflict Resolution announced that a broad range of individuals and groups are interested in renaming the Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument.

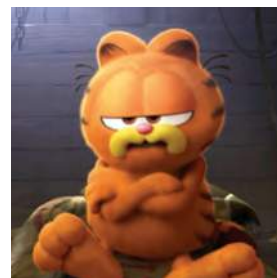
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### BUSINESS

Docomo Pacific has appointed Christine Baletto as its new president and chief executive officer. Baletto succeeds Rod Boss, who recently announced his retirement.

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### LIFE & STYLE

It was a quiet weekend at North American movie theaters, dominated once again by Sony's "The Garfield Movie," Warner Bros.' "Furiosa: A Mad Max Saga" and a slew of holdovers.

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# Local

## Francisco M. Sablan Middle School promotes 88

Francisco M. Sablan Middle School promoted 88 eighth graders to high school at the packed Koblerville Gymnasium on Wednesday, May 29.

The promoted students chose one of the quotes from the famous YouTuber, Technoblade, for their promotion theme, "One day, we'll look back at where we started and be amazed at how far we've come."

Rexy Eirah Doronila is the class valedictorian and recipient of the 18th CNMI Board of Education Academic Excellence Award. Acting BOE chair Maisie B. Tenorio was joined by BOE members Andrew L. Orsini and Antonio L. Borja in presenting the award.

Christian Joseph R. Tenorio is class salutatorian and the recipient of the Commissioner of Education Academic Excellence Award which was presented by Education Commissioner Dr. Lawrence F. Camacho and his key management.

The Excellence in Leadership Award was presented to Alexander Javier for his leadership throughout the campus



The Board of Education Academic Excellence Award was presented to class valedictorian Rexy Eirah Doronila by acting BOE chair Maisie B. Tenorio, who was joined by BOE members Andrew L. Orsini and Antonio L. Borja in presenting the award.

and community.

### Subject awards

Twelve subject awards were announced during the promotion ceremony.

The academic excellence in computer literacy II was a tie for Francis Bien Cabanatan Danipog and Christian Joseph R. Tenorio.

The academic excellence for Carolinian Language and Heritage Studies was awarded

to Mary Lach M. Pascua.

Caitlin Solidum Burgos was presented with the Academic Excellence in Chamorro Language and Heritage Studies.

The academic excellence in social studies was presented to Rexy Eirah Doronila.

The academic excellence in physical education, the award was presented to three students: Paul Demetrius Barroga Calunsag, Changhwan Ryu and Kapua Masga Hocog.

Christian Joseph R. Tenorio was the recipient for academic excellence in mathematics.

Precious Aicee Castro received academic excellence in fine arts.

The academic excellence in PLTW/STEM was awarded to Francis Bien Cabanatan Danipog, Alexander Tobi Javier, and Delzen Aurea Vergara.

The academic excellence in science was presented to Precious Kenzie Lontic and Jerz Luv Sean Calisura Navarro.

The academic excellence in Language Arts went to Fatima C. Muna and Rexy Doronila.

The students were presented with academic excellence in Music: Frank Raphael M. Lumanlan, Paul Demetrius Barroga Calunsag, Sheila Feng, Changhwan Ryu, Dann Aldrin Santiago Ciano, Mary Pascua, Rexy Eira Doronilla, Julinad Anua, Sierra Elise C. Manahane, and Lionel Edison B. Arceo.

The Distinguished Middle School Leadership Corps Award for Leadership Excellence was presented to Christian Joseph R. Tenorio for his "commendable conduct in the performance of outstanding service of commander of cadets."

The Napu Spirit Award was given to Gabriel Asaiah Suda for exemplifying school spirit and citizenship.

### Encouragement

Class valedictorian Doronila, in her address, said it was her mother's encouragement that led her to strive better.

"If I could speak to 6th grade me, I would tell myself how far we've come along and how much we've improved over the years. I was failing in sixth grade until my mother pushed me to do my best. I'm pretty sure without the encouragement from my mom, I wouldn't be standing here, giving this speech. Receiving this award and title shows just how far I've come along. I will never forget how much fun I've had throughout my time in middle school," he said.

She added, "The times when I would study for an exam in the period before, rushing to finish essays and projects as fast as possible. I have not only made new friends, but I have found myself along the way. As a Chinese proverb once said, "Teachers open the door, but you must enter by yourself." You may be given multiple opportunities, but it is up to you to use those opportunities."

She thanked several individuals who were part of his middle school journey. "I would like to thank some re-



Christian Joseph R. Tenorio is class salutatorian and the recipient of the Commissioner of Education Academic Excellence Award which was presented by Education Commissioner Dr. Lawrence F. Camacho and his key management.

markable people first. I would like to thank all the teachers and staff for pushing me to do my best. However, I would like to thank Ms. Mettao, Ms. Marylyn, and Ms. Bev personally, for always being able to help me with other subjects and always encouraging me to not give up. Thank you to all my friends for being supportive.

### Motivation

Tenorio, the class salutatorian, in his address remembered his journey in middle school.

"I was an average, actually below average student. I was failing multiple classes and was not motivated to keep up with school. That was until a certain mathematician decided to step in and motivate me to make better decisions. This person was Marylyn Tabuena, one of our emcees for today. Throughout 7th and 8th grade she has been like an older sister and mentor for me, serving as motivation to always try my best. The next few people I will mention are those that encourage me to be better. These people are Francis Danipog, Dann Ciano, Alexander Javier, Michael Elayda, and Jommy Tubale in no particular order whatsoever. The next person is our valedictorian and someone who motivated me to compete with them in terms of academics. I would like to be one of the first people to say congratulations to Rexy Doronila. The next person I will be mentioning is my 7th grade Homeroom Teacher, Mrs. Beverly Surla, who has helped me through a lot and has always been a good person to talk to. I would also like to thank my siblings and my parents for always thinking that I could do better. Another person I would like to mention hasn't been here for long but has quickly become one of my favorite teachers because of his witty personality and good morals. I would like to thank Lance Corporal Karl Bier for helping our drill team when we were at our lowest. The last person I will mention may not be the tallest teacher, but their impact on my person is undeniable. Mrs. Mettao is a coach, coordinator,

and teacher all at once."

### Problem solver

Education Commissioner Camacho paid tribute to the promoted students as the reason why he, and the Board of Education, continue to serve the Commonwealth's public school students.

"I want to thank you our bigger bosses—the students, all the promotes—who are moving on to high school. For me, as I reflect on your journey, you have come to this point where you can see and visualize the future. And that future is our land—the island of Saipan or wherever you may end up when you finish your studies with us at PSS," the commissioner of education said.

He added, "Someone once said that the two best days in a person's life are 1) when they were born, and 2) when you realize and know why you were born. You have a meaning in your life; you own meaning in your life and find that. Your generation, as we define success, no longer means the possession or accumulation of possessions, goods and wealth. You said that success to you means a purpose in life. It means getting through high school and getting to establish yourself and achieve goals and purpose in life. And I hope that purpose in life is to help solve the problems here in the CNMI."

Acting BOE chair Maisie Tenorio said, "I have had the incredible privilege of getting to know many of you these past few months, so I know these last few years have not been easy. Despite your challenges—you showed up for your family, your classmates but, most importantly—for yourself. If you take any skill with you, take one foot... in front of the other."

She added, "The next four years will also have its set of challenges, but you are not alone. You have an entire community of loved ones and educators who will walk alongside you—one step at a time. With their support and your courage, you will continue to reach amazing destinations." (PR)

**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**SAIPAN**

**2024 CNMI Children Matter Month Symposium!**

**June 08, 2024**

**Royal Taga-World Resort**

**9:00am-3:00pm**

**SCAN ME**

Contact us at:  
(670) 287-1340

Email us at:  
cnmibrainbuilders@evergreenlearning.org



# SHS opens pet service facility in Garapan

By **CHRYSTAL MARINO**

chrystal\_marino@saipantribune.com  
CORRESPONDENT

After years of caring and servicing over 5,000 pets, all without a place to call their own, the Saipan Humane Society was excited to announce that they have been finally able to open the doors to their own facility in Garapan. A soft opening took place at their new location in Garapan, nestled on the corner of Angaha Street and Alaihai Avenue, just behind Salt & Barber Saipan.

The new facility houses a reception area, two separate waiting rooms—one for regular visits and the other for sick pets—to prevent cross contamination, two examination rooms, a food pantry, a small staff room, and an almost completed surgical room.

In a conversation with the Saipan Humane Society founder Lauren Cabrera and co-founder and director of clinical services Ruby Ma last Thursday, they shared that although they will miss working side by side with individuals at the Saipan Mayor's Office Dog Control Program in As Perdido, it felt good to have a bigger space.

"Before we were located at the main animal shelter, and we really appreciate how the mayor and the Dog Control Program helped us along since the beginning," said Ma.

Cabrera said, "The main issue was just the lack of space at the Dog Control Program. They were really, very amazing, helping us get started up, but we quickly overwhelmed the facility and so we just wanted more space where we can have different exam rooms going at the same time, and our own place to call home, but we still really value the collaboration with Dog Control, because I think that's so important."

Both women highlighted that although their facilities are now separate the partnership is still there.

"Everyday we have Dog Control staff come in to help us to do animal restraint, registration, and we even have dogs from the shelter adopted from here, they also help us to do different kinds of physical examinations..." Ma explained. "So, they have been very, very helpful."

Cabrera shared that the main reason they were able to obtain the spot was due to their partnership with the Banfield Foundation, who was willing to sponsor the rent. Ma pointed out that the foundation has not only sponsored their rent but also some of the medicine as well.

"They have been a great help to us, not only in grow-



CHRYSTAL MARINO

Saipan Humane Society co-founders Ruby Ma and Lauren Cabrera and staff Shareen Mongkeya pose for a photo at their new facility in Garapan.

ing the organization so they in turn can provide more services to the community and be more sustainable in the long term," she expressed.

Cabrera noted, "Really, the only reason we are able to survive is because of our really valuable government partnerships with the people at the Dog Control Program and then the Banfield Foundation. Without those two key pieces I think we probably wouldn't be here. You know everyday is a struggle trying to make the finances balanced so that we can be sustainable and we are just so grateful for all the support we have from those who help us," she said.

As of now, the facility is open every Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday from 10am to 2pm. Ma shared that as they gain more staff, they are looking forward to expand service hours, but as of now they need to be able to also accommodate the staff they have on hand.

"We are trying to expand our team so we can provide more services and extend longer hours for the community."

She added that due to being short-staffed at the moment, they are functioning mostly through appointments, saying that clientele can make appointments on either their website or any of their social media sites.

Currently they are doing wellness visits, several vaccinations such as Bordetella, DHPP, Lepto, and when they have a visiting veterinarian, they can do rabies vaccines. They also have provided Bravecto and Simparica Trio, done de-wormings, as well as physical examinations and consultation regarding upper respiratory disease, performed aid to wound or injuries, diarrhea, sneezing, or coughing.

Cabrera and Ma also announced some exciting news.

"Shoutout to Banfield Foundation, they are sending teams to us in September, October,

and November," said Ma.

While they're still working on the details, she said each clinic will be around two weeks per visit.

"We are very excited that there are finally three vets in a row coming to not only help us but serve the community." Ma said that they are hoping to partner with either the Boonie Babies or the Saipan Mayor's Office Dog Control Program to do TNR which is short for trap, neuter, and release. "You know we have such a huge stray overpopulation so the trap, spay, and neuter [campaign] will help a lot."

She shared that there are also plans to bring the clinic over to Rota, but as of now she isn't yet sure about Tinian due to unclear numbers and difficulties with equipment.

"It depends on how many people we have there and how



CHRYSTAL MARINO

The new Saipan Humane Society facility on the corner of Angaha Street and Alaihai Avenue, just behind the Salt & Barber Saipan in Garapan.

much we can bring over. Because one of the very essential equipment to do a spay and neuter is the oxygen tank, and we need to find a cost-efficient way to bring those."

Ma and Cabrera said they do hope to help out even more in the CNMI community and are excited for the upcoming

clinic. Ma shared that more information will be released soon, adding that they are also hoping to have an official grand opening around September or October as well.

For more information on the Saipan Humane Society, call (670) 838-7387 or check them out on their social media pages.



## COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055

Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962

E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cnmiports.com

## JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT # 07-2024

Opening date: May 15, 2024

Closing date: June 5, 2024

Location: **SAIPAN**

**SALARY**

Position(s):

**(1) Staff Engineer**

**UNGRADED**

**Nature of Work**

Highly responsible for all engineering programs and activities of CPA.

This employee is responsible for the management and supervision of engineering programs and activities at the Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA). Work is technical in nature and reviewed through conferences with the Executive Director or his designee and submission of reports. Employee exercises independent judgment in solutions to situations or problems in which no precedents exist. This position is unclassified.

### Minimum Qualifications

- Graduation from high school (or G.E.D.) and a four (4) year degree in civil engineering from an accredited U.S. college or university with no less than five (5) years of progressively responsible experience in a professional engineering level of which three (3) years pertain to supervisory experience.
- Shall have no record of felony or criminal conviction.

**(1) STAFF ATTORNEY**

**UNGRADED**

**Nature of Work**

Under the general direction of the CPA Board of the Directors and the Executive Director to provide legal assistance and advice on a day-to-day basis and to render such legal services as may be requested. Required to perform such services as may be designated, including but not limited to, all or any portion of the employer's administrative, supervisory, planning and other obligations in the operations of the airports and seaport of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. This position is unclassified.

### Minimum Qualifications

- 1. Must be a U.S. citizen.
- 2. Member (active) of the CNMI Bar.
- 3. Graduated with Juris Doctor degree from an accredited U.S. law school.
- 4. At least five (5) years work experience in either the government or private practice, and at least three (3) years experience in civil litigation, including jury trials.
- 5. Have never been convicted of a felony or a misdemeanor involving moral turpitude, in any jurisdiction.
- 6. Shall have no felony or criminal conviction.

**(1) COMPTROLLER**

**UNGRADED**

**Nature of Work**

Difficult and highly responsible professional accounting work involving the management and supervision of CPA's major accounting program.

This employee is responsible for the management and supervision of all phases and functions of CPA's accounting program consisting of several numbers of subordinate accountants and account clerical personnel. Work is technical in nature and reviewed through conferences with the Executive Director or his designee and submission of reports. Employee exercises independent judgment in solutions to situations or problems in which no clear precedents exist. This position is unclassified.

### Minimum Qualifications

- Must possess four (4) year degree in Accounting, Finance, or related field from an accredited U.S. college or university with no less than seven (7) years of progressively responsible experience in professional Accounting, Finance or managerial level of which three (3) years pertain to supervisory experience. Accounting experience in autonomous agencies and/or U.S. Certified Public Accountant is preferred.
- Shall have no record of felony or criminal conviction.

Employment Application must be accompanied with a copy of all required diploma/certificates and/or official sealed transcripts, original copy of recent police record not more than six (6) months old, original copy of U.S. Department of Defense Form DD214 for retired members or veterans of our Armed Forces, and other documents as required for the position. Public Law 11-70 requires that all male applicants age 18 to 25 years old must submit documentation evidencing his registration with the Federal Selective Service System. All applications and required documents must be submitted to the **CPA Administration Office, 2nd Floor Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport or CPA Administration Office, Tinian International Airport, or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport**. Failure to provide any of the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. Certain vacancies may require written and/or physical test. Selected applicants will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening, 10-year Criminal History Record Check and 49 CFR Part 1542.209(d) Requirements. CPA reserves the right to waive or implement other qualifications to meet its needs. The deadline for submission of applications and required documents to the CPA Administration Office (Saipan) or at the Tinian International Airport or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport is no later than **5:00 P.M. on Wednesday, June 05, 2024**.

Detailed information on qualifications and position descriptions for the above positions may be picked up along with the application form from Monday-Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., except on holidays and austerities, at the CPA Administration Office (2nd Floor) of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Arrival Terminal or CPA Admin. Office at the Tinian International Airport or at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport. For additional information, please contact the CPA Human Resources Office by email at lorna.robert@cnmiports.com and hrspecialist@cnmiports.com or by phone at (670)237-6500.

CPA is an Equal Opportunity Employer and CPA hires those who are legally entitled to employment in the CNMI.

LEO B. TUDELA  
Executive Director



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands  
**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**  
Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality  
Division of Coastal Resources Management  
P.O. Box 501304, Saipan, MP 96950  
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www.dcrm.gov.mp



Richard V. Salas  
Director, DCRM

## NOTICE OF CRM PUBLIC HEARING

### HAWAIIAN ROCK PRODUCTS HAWAIIAN ROCK TINIAN QUARRY EXPANSION

The Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) will be holding a public hearing for the following project:

**CRM Major Siting Application No. TMS-2024-045** - Hawaiian Rock Products is proposing to expand its rock quarry operations to the adjacent leased public properties identified as Lot Nos. 266 T 11, measuring about 16,949 sq. m. and 266 T 12, measuring about 15,856 sq. m., or a combined total of about 32,805 sq. m. of public lands. The site will be used to quarry limestone materials by utilizing surface mining methods where a mechanical rock plane apparatus slices the rock into workable slabs.

The public hearing for this project is scheduled on **Tuesday, July 2, 2024, at 5:00PM**, at the **Tinian Elementary School Cafeteria, San Jose, Tinian**.

DCRM continues to provide virtual participation via video conferencing through Zoom link: <https://zoom.us/j> (Meeting ID: 6706648315). Our Zoom meeting access code may change, please call the DCRM Permitting Office at (670) 664-8300 for connection assistance at least one-day prior to the public hearing date.

If you are unable to attend in-person or virtually, written comments may be submitted to the DCRM Permitting Office, Suite 305, Gualo Rai Center, Middle Road, Gualo Rai, Saipan, or mailed to the Division of Coastal Resources Management, P.O. Box 501304, or sent by fax at 664-8315, or by email at [permitting@dcrm.gov.mp](mailto:permitting@dcrm.gov.mp). The project file is open for review and comments during regular business hours from 7:30 A.M. - 4:30 P.M., Monday through Friday. All written and oral comments received by DCRM will be included as part of the permit application records and will be considered in any decisions concerning the proposed project. Please contact Ms. Sam Sablan at the DCRM Permitting Office at 664-8300/1 or via email at [permitting@dcrm.gov.mp](mailto:permitting@dcrm.gov.mp) if you have any questions or would like to learn more about the proposed Hawaiian Rock Tinian Quarry Expansion Project.

/s/ RICHARD V. SALAS  
Director, DCRM



# SNILD confirms Alinas' appointment to Zoning Board

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**  
kimberly\_esmores@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation unanimously confirmed Eleanor Alinas' appointment to the Commonwealth Zoning board. Last Friday, during a SNILD special session, members of the delegation voted in favor

of confirming Alinas' nomination to serve as the Zoning board's newest board member. Alinas, who was present with her friends and family, was ecstatic about her confirmation. In an interview with Alinas, she said she is honored and excited to take on her new role and to represent small business owners like herself.

"I'm truly honored and humbled by all the support I've gotten. I am excited to make my contribution to bettering the Zoning process for small businesses. My concern is, as a representative of the business community, I am hoping to somehow be a voice for our business sector and possibly make the process smoother

for our business community members," she said. When asked what her first order of business would be as a new Zoning board member, Alinas said she intends to advocate for a thorough review of the current Zoning laws. "One of the first things I want to do as a Zoning board member is to see if we can go back and review the Zoning law. The Zoning law in and of itself has certain provisions that don't apply to us," she said.

## Class action settlement reached on contamination from PFAS

Office of the Attorney General said several class action settlements have been reached to resolve claims of public water systems against certain companies related to per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances contamination of drinking water. These class action settlements were reached in a large multi-district litigation known as the Aqueous Film-Forming Foam Product Liability Litigation, or MDL 2873, overseen by the U.S. District Court in South Carolina. The settling defendants include: 3M company and E. I. Du Pont de Nemours and company (n/k/a EIDP, Inc.), DuPont de Nemours Inc., The Chemours Company, the Chemours Company FC, LLC, and Cor-

teva, inc. (collectively, the "DuPont Companies"). Public water systems on Saipan may be entitled to monetary relief under the settlements. Based on records maintained by CNMI agencies, you may meet the definition of a public water system and may be eligible to submit a claim. The amount of compensation each public water system may receive under the settlement depends on factors including the level of PFAS contamination in your system and its flow rate. Additional information about the settlements, including eligibility requirements, instructions for filing claims, and claim deadlines is available online at <https://www.pfaswatersettlement.com/>. Please note that initial claims are due July 12, 2024. The CNMI Office of the Attorney General cannot advise you regarding your eligibility to participate in the class action settlements and this press release is not legal advice. You will either need to file a claim on your own behalf or engage your own legal counsel for assistance. Separate and apart from these settlements, please note that the CNMI OAG remains committed to pursuing legal action against companies responsible for contamination from PFAS. The CNMI OAG's lawsuit against these companies remains pending. **(PR)**

www.pfaswatersettlement.com/. Please note that initial claims are due July 12, 2024. The CNMI Office of the Attorney General cannot advise you regarding your eligibility to participate in the class action settlements and this press release is not legal advice. You will either need to file a claim on your own behalf or engage your own legal counsel for assistance. Separate and apart from these settlements, please note that the CNMI OAG remains committed to pursuing legal action against companies responsible for contamination from PFAS. The CNMI OAG's lawsuit against these companies remains pending. **(PR)**

## MHS class of 1984 meeting on June 5

The Marianas High School Class of 1984 will hold its last meeting in the preparation for its upcoming 40th class mass and reunion this Wednesday, June 5, 6pm on the pavillion along Beach Road right across True North Bar. The upcoming mass will be on June 7, 6pm at Kristo Rai Church and the 40th reunion picnic will be on June 8, 4pm at the Minatchom Atdao Pavillion in Susupe. For more information, reach out to the following classmates Diego Masga, Roy Pangelinan, Pres Sastro, Daisy Villagomez, and Angie Atalig. **(PR)**

## IPI

From page 1

intends to take out. U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona approved last week DIP financing for an initial withdraw of \$400,000 of the \$7-million loan. Manglona also serves as bankruptcy judge. Chi, in his report, stated that the remaining \$6 million would be paid to CCC but wants to negotiate some kind of stipulated agreement reinstating IPI's casino license. Chi explained that restructuring or reorganization would

be difficult without a license attached to the IPI resort and casino investors are less inclined to fund IPI as a casino investor without a license to operate a casino. "It really depends on what happens with CCC and what happens with the CNMI government. If there is no agreement between CCC and the CNMI, then the path for reorganization will be completely different than if there was an agreement. There have been communications [with investors] and we understand that if there is an agreement reached, [investors] are willing to fund [IPI] because there would be a license attached to

IPI to operate a casino. So, if there is an agreement that can be reached, we would know how much money is required to pay CCC, pay the CNMI, and then we can go to investors to say 'this is how much money is needed going forward'. Without an agreement, it's going to be very hard for us to find investors because there is so much unknown," Chi explained. CCC board chair Edward Deleon Guerrero raised concerns about this agreement stating that CCC can't consider reinstatement when IPI can't provide a plan for reorganization. "We don't want to deal

with this casino license anymore, we want to hear your plans of reorganization, we want to see how you proposed to pay the \$62 million. In order for IPI to reorganize, you shouldn't be forgiven for all your debt, you should make every effort to pay them off. In an effort to reorganize, IPI should at least have a plan on how to reorganize or at least identify how it would be able to pay creditors, how much is needed to finish the hotel, hire employees, and more," he said.

A longer version of this story is available at [www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com)

## BUDGET

From page 1

this coming fiscal year compared to fiscal year 2024 taking into account the CNMI's current economic crisis. Yesterday, CNMI Department of Commerce acting secretary Francisco Cabrera and Division of Alcoholic Beverage and Tobacco Control director Dave Maratita appeared before the House Standing Committee on Ways and Means for their budget hearing. The hearing addressed the proposed budget submitted by the Office of the Governor for the Department of Commerce. In an interview with Cabrera, the proposed budget for his department for FY2025 is \$1.4 million, a

reduction from its last fiscal year budget of \$1.5 million. "We had [to implement a] reduction because of our current economic situation. We need to live by our government's means. We're in favor of the governor's proposed budget and we just need to live within our means," he said. Initially, the Department of Commerce submitted a budget of \$2.8 million to the Office of Management and Budget under the Office of the Governor but does not object to the significant cut proposed. During the hearing, committee members raised concerns about the department's services. According to Cabrera, what needs to be addressed immediately is Commerce's statistics information as well as filling vital positions like an

administrative hearing officer. "Two factors of concern were raised today; one was the information and statistics that needs to be opened and improved, second is hiring an administrative hearing officer. These are the things that need to be addressed right away," he said. In an interview with Way and Means committee chair Rep. Ralph Yumul (Ind-Saipan), he said the committee did not go into detail during its budget hearing for Commerce yesterday as there is still the possibility of a revision as the legislature awaits a revised budget from the Department of Finance. Due to Hyatt Regency Saipan pulling out and the low tourist arrival projection, Finance is expected to submit a

revised FY24 budget. "We are expecting a revised budget so we are very careful of what we asked because there might be changes. There might be a drop in the next fiscal year, so we didn't go into much detail with the department because we're just waiting for the revised budget. With regards to Commerce's budget, due to grants and revolving funds, they have enough to sustain their current operations. So, they can sustain themselves. It's only the enforcement part, we aren't sure if they're going to hire to back up current enforcements. Moving forward, we are going to continue on with the budget hearings and then hope for the best while we wait for the revised budget from Department of Finance (if any)," he said.

"In addition, there are provisions that don't coincide with other agencies. For example, the Cannabis Law. Under the law, you can't have a cannabis establishment within 150 feet from churches and schools, however, the Zoning law says 300 feet. There's a blur as far as which law to follow. So, for small businesses, there's

that question of 'which law do I abide by.' So, I think that's what I'm going to be advocating for, a thorough review of the Zoning laws (to begin with)," she added. Alinas, who was nominated by Gov. Arnold I. Palacios and Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang, is the president of local catering company Kalayaan Inc.

## PALACIOS

From page 1

Apatang will be assuming authority while he is off-island this week. "This is to inform you that I will be out of the Commonwealth from June 02, 2024 to June 07, 2024 on official business. Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang will be acting governor, pursuant to Article III, Section 8 (a) of the Commonwealth Constitution until my return. I advise all departments and agencies to ensure all actions, documents and correspondences during this time reflect this assumption of authority. Please extend your full cooperation and assistance to the Lt. Gov. Apatang as he assumes this additional responsibility," said the memorandum. *Saipan Tribune* learned that Palacios will be attending the 26th Micronesian Islands Forum from June 3 to 4 hosted by Guam. The Micronesian Islands Forum was established in 1994. It comprises of island nations and territories in Micronesia including the CNMI, Guam, Federated States of Micronesia, and

the Marshall Islands. The Micronesian Islands Forum's main goal is to encourage cooperation and collaboration on common issues such as sustainable development, climate change, ocean conservation, economic development, cultural preservation, and regional security. It also provides a platform for members to interact with other regional and international organizations. The forum also encourages cooperation and collaboration on health, environment, and other important issues the Micronesia region faces. The forum's theme this year is "Writing Our History, Shaping Our Future." Palacios' trip comes less than a week since his return from his last trip from Japan where he, along with the Marianas Visitors Authority, hosted the Marianas Seminar. MVA organized the seminar in Tokyo to provide details about Saipan, Tinian, and Rota, with the goal of generating new Marianas products and new media coverage to attract more Japanese travelers to the destination.

## CABRERA

From page 1

Evan McLaren Carlo Paras Cabrera was named the valedictorian of HMS Class of 2024. He also received the Board of Education Academic Excellence Award which was presented by BOE acting chair Maisie B. Tenorio and BOE member Andrew Orsini. The salutatorian was Steven Lian and he was also the recipient of the Commissioner of Education Academic Excellence Award. The Principal's Leadership Award went to Ricky Tang. Cabrera, along with being the top promotee, was also named the Best Male Athlete and was presented the Athlete of the Year Award. The Best Female Athlete was awarded to Paulette Erin Borja Somol. For HMS, there was no Top 10, and instead, presented "Best in Subject" awards. Best in English Language Arts went to Cabrera and Leelando Meng Backman. Lian and Yong Jun Lin received the Best in Mathematics Award. Tang and Lian were the recipients of the Best in Science Award.

For the Best in Social Studies, the award went to Cabrera and Alexandria Evangelista Asuncion. Cabrera also grabbed the Best in Chamorro Carolinian Language & Heritage Studies (CCLHS), along with Toby Yan. Lin and Lian received the Best in Middle School Leadership Corps Award. Lin and Lian also received the Best in Physical Education Award. Best in CTE-Computer Literacy III went to Cabrera and Alexis Danielle Manaloto Salundaguit. Lastly, in Best in CTE-Agriculture, the award went to Cabrera and Jazzmine Reyes Apasan. The theme of the ceremony was, "Your success is only determined by the amount of effort and commitment you decide to put into everything you choose to do" by HMS principal, Victor Cabrera. The welcoming remarks were made by HMS principal Victor Cabrera, while Tenorio delivered the BOE congratulatory remarks. Education Commissioner Dr. Lawrence F. Camacho then gave his COE congratulatory remarks.



# NMC Archives selected as repository for Kilili's historical records, artifacts



NMC

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP), center, signs the official deed of gift transferring the ownership of Sablan's documents, records, and other artifacts to the Northern Marianas College. Also in photo is CNMI archivist Ray Muña.

Northern Marianas College recently held a handover ceremony where a collection of documents, records, and other artifacts belonging to Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP) were officially handed over and entrusted to the college, and are now part of the NMC Archives.

The donated collection features photographs from his time as a congressman, including pictures with former U.S. President Barack H. Obama, former House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, and other high-ranking officials, as well as documents including bills and laws signed pertaining to and involving the NMI.

"On behalf of NMC and the entire CNMI, we thank Congressman Kilili for this addition to the CNMI Archives.

This historical record demonstrates the extraordinary impact his 16 years in the U.S. Congress has had on our community. Leading with integrity, compassion, and impact, despite the political divisive environment he worked in, he successfully worked with both Democrats and Republicans to benefit the CNMI with increased funding, critical legislation, and key policy achievements. Now, future generations will find insight and inspiration when they study this remarkable historical record of a true statesman at the CNMI Archives," said NMC president Dr. Galvin Deleon Guerrero.

Sablan, the first and only U.S. representative from the Northern Mariana Islands, began his term on Jan. 6, 2009,



NMC

From left, Jessica Sablan Deleon Guerrero, Florence C. Sablan, Bernadette C. Sablan, Andrew Sablan, Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP), Victorina Camacho Sablan, Frances Patricia Ariola, and Northern Marianas College president Dr. Galvin Deleon Guerrero.

and has been reelected to office seven times. His journey from the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to the halls of Congress exemplifies resilience, adaptability, and a deep commitment to public service.

As a member of the House Natural Resources Committee and the House Committee on Education and the Workforce in the U.S. House of Repre-

sentatives, Sablan has advocated for increased federal support for schools, healthcare facilities, and infrastructure projects within the Northern Mariana Islands. His legislative achievements have significantly impacted the quality of life and opportunities for residents of the Commonwealth. Sablan was recently the commencement speaker of the 43rd NMC Commencement Ceremony.

"This work of the people

belongs to the people, and at the end of my term in December I hope that my service in some way over my eight terms in Congress can continue to serve the people who have given me the greatest honor to work for them and represent them for all these years," said Sablan. "The NMC Archives is the guardian for similar collections over the years, I hope that this information will find its way to someone who can use it after the 118th Congress and beyond."

"We are honored to receive

this significant collection of documents and artifacts from Congressman Sablan, which will serve as a valuable resource for future generations to learn about the history and development of the CNMI," said CNMI archivist and NMC adjunct instructor Raymond Muña. "The NMC Archives is committed to preserving and making accessible these important records, ensuring that the legacy of Congressman Sablan's dedicated service to the Commonwealth is not forgotten." (PR)



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands  
**HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONS LICENSING BOARD**  
P.O. Box 502078, Bldg., 1242 Pohnpei Court  
Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950  
Tel No: (670) 664-4808/09 Fax: (670) 664-4814  
Email: info@cnmilicensing.gov.mp  
Website: www.cnmilicensing.gov.mp



Pursuant to P.L. 8-41, Section 11, Governor Arnold I. Palacios and Lt. Governor David M. Apatang, through the Health Care Professions Licensing Board (HCPLB), hereby gives notice that it will hold its regular monthly board meeting on **Wednesday, June 5, 2024, at 8 a.m.** on Saipan. The meeting will be held at the Board of Professional Licensing Conference Room, BPL Building on Capitol Hill.

## AGENDA

- I. Meeting Call to Order
- II. Determination of Quorum
- III. Review and Adoption of Agenda
- IV. Review and Adoption of Minutes (05/07/2024)
- V. Public Comments
- VI. Chairperson's Report
- VII. Director's Report
  - Localgov Contract
- VIII. Investigator's Report
- IX. Communications from the Governor's Office & Legislature
  - A. Governor's Office
  - B. Legislature
    - 1) Senate Standing Committee Report No. 23-84 RE: Executive Reappointment of Dr. Martin P. Rohringer for HCPLB Board
- X. Old Business
  - Proposed Amendments to Regulations for Licensed Professional Counselors
  - Proposed Amendments to Regulations for Social Workers
- XI. New Business
- XII. Pending Applications for Board's Review
  - Total Reviewed = \_\_\_\_\_ New Applications = \_\_\_\_\_
  - Renewal = \_\_\_\_\_ Pending = \_\_\_\_\_
- XIII. Miscellaneous Business
- XIV. Executive Session: The Board may vote to meet in executive session to consult with Counsel on pending or anticipated legal matters.
  - B. Bost (Physician Application)
  - A. Zigman Complaint
  - Monitoring Review of N.K.
- XV. Announcements
  - A. Next Meeting Date
  - B. Adjournment of Meeting



**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY**  
**COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION**



**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL**  
**RFP24-CHCC/WIC-014**  
**(REANNOUNCEMENT)**

**SUBMISSION DEADLINE: JUNE 7TH, 2024 TIME: 10:00AM (CHST)**

**PROFESSIONAL SERVICES - BANGLADESHI INTERPRETER**

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWNLOAD THIS **REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL** FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE [WWW.CHCC.HEALTHI]. ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

**/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA**  
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

**/S/ CORA P. ADA**  
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY



**CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM, OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**  
**COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**  
Tel: (670) 664-2371 | Fax: (670) 664-2408 | Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950



**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**

**RFP24-GOV/CIP-42400090**  
**ARCHITECTURAL AND ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR THE CUSTOMS & BIOSECURITY OFFICE, LOWER BASE, SAIPAN**

**SUBMISSION DATE: 10:00 AM CHST JUNE 21, 2024**

Governor Arnold I. Palacios and Lt. Governor David M. Apatang, through the Capital Improvement Program, are soliciting sealed proposals for the "Architectural and Engineering Services for the Customs & Biosecurity Office" project in Lower Base, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. This project will be funded by the 702 Covenant funding under the U.S. Department of Interior, Office of Insular Affairs.

The project package will be available in digital format only beginning **May 21, 2024** at the Capital Improvement Program Office, Office of the Governor, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building in Capitol Hill, Saipan, during regular working hours or online at Vendor Self Service at selfservice.dof.gov.mp/vss/Vendors/VBids.

A mandatory Pre-Proposal Conference will be held virtually via Google Meet at **10:00 AM CHST June 5, 2024**. Proposers may request for the invitation via email to Ms. Sunny Aldan-Salas at sunny.aldan@gov.mp. Questions regarding this RFP may be submitted via email to Ms. Sunny Aldan-Salas at sunny.aldan@gov.mp no later than **4:00 PM CHST June 12, 2024**. All Questions & Answers will be shared with all prospective proposers.

Proposers located outside of the CNMI must fill out and submit the Notice of Intent Form to the Acting Director of Procurement Services via email (bidintent@dof.gov.mp) no later than 10:00 AM CHST, June 21, 2024.

**THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS, AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.**

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

**/S/ Arnold I. Palacios**  
Governor, CNMI

**/S/ Brian S. Nicholas Jr., Acting Director**  
CNMI Procurement Services



**NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION**  
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514  
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp Website: http://www.cnmi-cdbgdr.com



**AMENDMENT NO. 1**  
**INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)**  
**NMHC IFB 2024-006**

(This ad is paid by NMHC by HUD funds)

**BID SUBMISSION DATE: June 14, 2024 July 05, 2024, 2:00 p.m.**

**Marianas High-School Career Technical Education Center Construction Project**

Project Package will be available on April 30, 2024, at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, during regular working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday thru Friday except CNMI holidays. A non-refundable payment of One-Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) is required for each set of the project package. Payment must be made payable to NMHC and receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the project package at the reception counter.

The project is funded through the Economic Development Authority (EDA), US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) through the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC), and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) through the CNMI Office of the Governor, Public Assistance Office (PAO). EDA and HUD funding will be utilized for the superstructure and site improvements.

The provisions on the NMHC Procurement regulations, NMIAC 100-60-725 AND 100-60-730 Prohibiting Gratuities, Kickbacks and Contingent Fees shall apply.

A Mandatory Pre-Bid Conference will be held at the NMHC Central Office Conference located in Garapan, Saipan on **May 24, 2024, 10:00 a.m.** In addition, a Mandatory site Visit/Inspection of the project site will be conducted immediately after the Pre-Bid Conference. Failure to attend both the Mandatory Pre-bid conference and the Mandatory site Visit/Inspection will be considered a non-responsive bidder.

For more information, contact Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager, at (670) 234-9447 or via email at officemanager@nmhc.gov.net during business hours, 7:30am - 4:30pm Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.

**/s/ JESSE S. PALACIOS**  
Corporate Director

**/s/ MERCEDES "MARCE" M. TOMOKANE**  
Chairwoman  
NMHC Board of Directors



NMC

From left, CNMI archivist Ray Muña, special assistant for administration Oscar M. Babauta, Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP), and Northern Marianas College president Dr. Galvin Deleon Guerrero.

## Smoke test for As Lito on June 4, 2024

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. would like to inform the general public that there will be a scheduled smoke test affecting customers in As Lito today, June 4, from 9:30am to 11:30am.

The smoke is nontoxic and nonhazardous and is manufactured specifically for this purpose. It leaves no residuals or stains and has no effects on plants or animals. The smoke is not expected to enter your home; however, if it does, it will have a distinct odor and should clear out within a few minutes

with proper ventilation.

Please be advised that all plumbing fixture drain traps must be filled with water before the test

CUC appreciates the public's cooperation and understanding as we work to ensure reliable service for our customers.

For more information, contact CUC's hotline at (670) 236-4333, visit its website, and monitor its Facebook page for the latest updates. For emergencies, contact Customer Service at (670) 664-4282. (PR)



# Opinion

Hafa Adai!

## Saipan Tribune

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MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

## EDITORIAL

### Sorry, Class of 2024—your protests blew hiring chances

**A**s graduations wind down, the Class of 2024 faces its next milestone: securing that first job after college.

Too bad that employers don't want to hire them. For starters, there's the resume kiss of death earned by antisemitic protesters that have roiled college campuses. While many concealed their identities with masks and keffiyehs, CEOs and other leaders have stated that they wouldn't hire alumni from colleges who hosted anti-Israel demonstrations.

In a recent survey of 1,268 business leaders in the U.S. by higher education publication Intelligent.com, almost two-thirds of employers said they were reluctant to hire protesters because they may exhibit confrontational behavior in the workplace and over half say it's because they are too political and could make other workers feel uncomfortable, as CNBC reported.

The vigorous ignorance on display in these rallies and encampments is another red flag. They chant "from the river to the sea," but when pressed to name what river and which sea, they are clueless. The same goes for knowing the fundamentals: that Israel is the ancestral homeland of the Jews, and the history of Palestinian politics.

"I have had many conversations, as you have had, with a lot of young people over the last many months," former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said on MSNBC earlier this month. "They don't know very much at all about the history of the Middle East or frankly about history in many areas of the world, including in our own country."

It's part of an overarching assessment of Gen Z that's turning off recruiters.

In a recent Freedom Economy Index survey conducted by PublicSquare and RedBalloon, 68% of small business owners said Gen Zers were the "least reliable" of all their employees, as Newsweek reported.

One of the surveyed employers spoke of Gen Z's "absolute delusion, complete lack of common sense, and zero critical reasoning or basic analytical skills."

Less than 4% said Gen Z was the generation that most aligns with their workplace culture, and 62% said Gen Z was the most likely to create division and toxicity in the workplace.

There are, however, those in this cohort who swim against the tide: hardworking, intelligent innovators eager to make positive changes in their communities and with skills and the work ethic that make them stand out to hiring companies.

They'd rather roll up their sleeves than spend time virtue-signaling, and while this would appeal to those on the hiring side, many want to forge their own path.

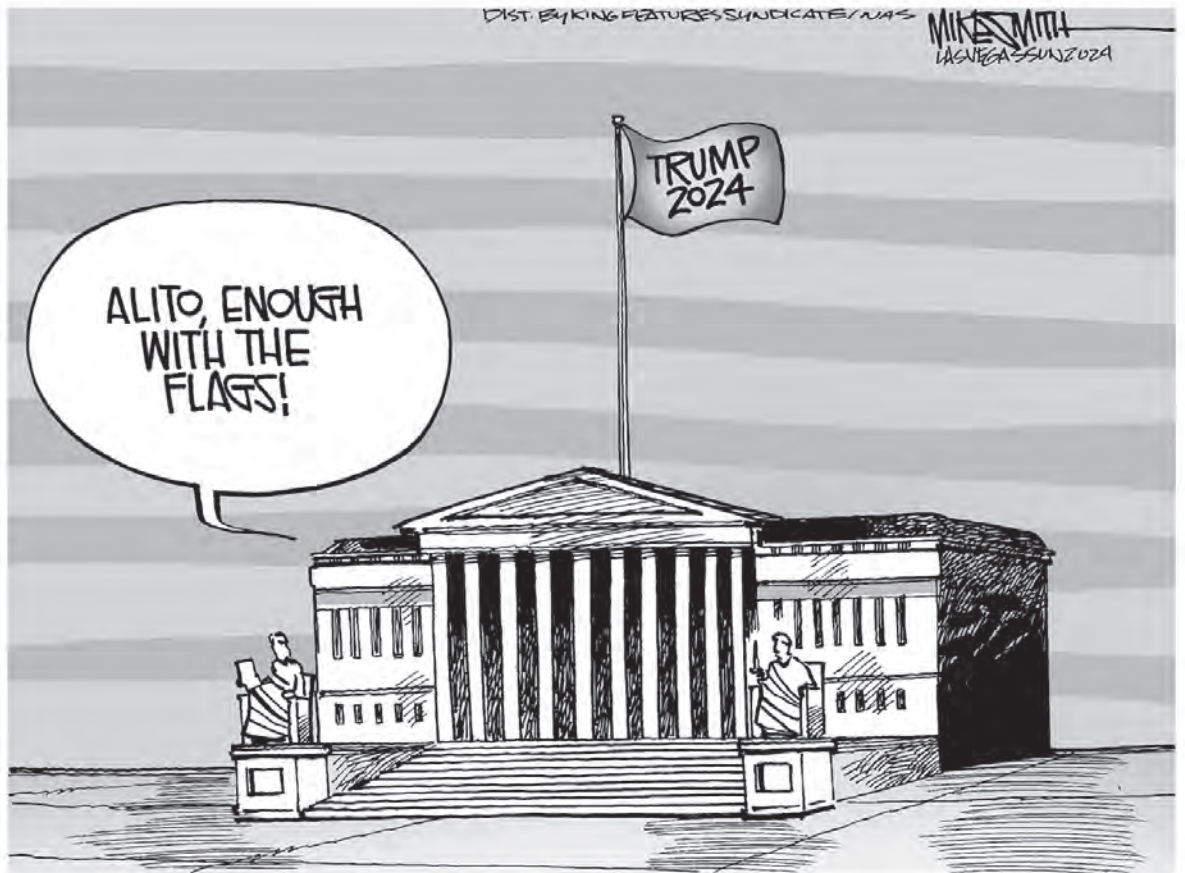
A report last fall from Samsung and Morning Consult found 50% of Gen Z aspires to become an entrepreneur or start their own business. It's stats like this that offer hope in a strong future for America.

Not all are on board. They're the American flag burners, the TikTok whiners making "corporate America is so unfair" posts, and the professional protesters eager to block roads and bridges and cause general disruption for the cause du jour.

Unfortunately, they're also a voting bloc coveted by leaders willing to bend to their sense of victimhood and entitlement.

So to the Class of 2024, good luck kids, you're going to need it. And good luck America.

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## Samuel Alito's ethical lapse isn't the Supreme Court's first. This is why it's different

**A**nother day, another ethics crisis at the Supreme Court. When I first read about the upside-down American flag that flew at the Virginia home of Supreme Court Justice Samuel A. Alito Jr. in early 2021, I thought, "Boy, that's dumb."

When I later read about the "Appeal to Heaven" pine tree flag that flew at Alito's beach home in New Jersey, I thought, "Wow, how many election denier flags is too many for a Supreme Court justice to own and display?"

Shouldn't the answer be obvious?

A Supreme Court justice should never behave in a manner that can be interpreted as politically partisan. Alito has claimed that the upside-down flag, a distress signal adopted by those denying Donald Trump's 2020 election loss, was raised by his wife during a political dispute with neighbors. Tawdry as that sounds, it doesn't matter. It's his house, too.

"A Supreme Court justice appears to have embraced election denialism," Alicia Bannon of New York University's Brennan Center for Justice told Reuters. "That's a five-alarm fire."

A sitting federal judge even weighed in: "Flying those flags was tantamount to sticking a 'Stop the steal' bumper sticker on your car," Massachusetts-based senior U.S. District Judge Michael Ponsor wrote in a New York Times essay chastising Alito. "You just don't do it."

You just don't do it.

The U.S. Supreme Court didn't even have an official code of ethics until late last year, unlike the rest of the federal judiciary. Imagine: lifetime tenure and no codified ethics rules.

The idea that justices can be expected to monitor themselves for conflicts of interest and ethical lapses is absurd. No one can fairly judge themselves.

And now all the court has is a toothless set of guidelines with no enforcement mechanism.

For those whose reflexive what-aboutism kicks in whenever MAGA world comes under fire, it's important to acknowledge that it was also wrong for Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg to criticize then-presidential candidate Trump in 2016.

"I can't imagine what this place would be—I can't imagine what the country would be—with Donald Trump as our president," RBG told the New York Times during an interview in her chambers four months before the election. "For the country, it could be four years. For the court, it could be—I don't even want to contemplate that."

(And it was improper for Justice Sonia Sotomayor to routinely ask her staff to prod libraries, universities and schools to buy her books ahead of speaking engagements. She also should have

**By ROBIN ABCARIAN**

Los Angeles Times



recused herself from a case involving her publisher.)

But when Ginsburg publicly let loose on Trump, hardly anyone thought the reality show billionaire was going to beat Hillary Clinton. Even Trump didn't think he would win. Still, it was an inappropriate, incautious statement from a Supreme Court justice who should have known better.

And, days later, she confessed as much: "On reflection, my recent remarks in response to press inquiries were ill-advised, and I regret making them," she said in a written statement released by the court. "Judges should avoid commenting on a candidate for public office. In the future I will be more circumspect."

Ginsburg's self-flagellation was not good enough for the Wall Street Journal's conservative editorial board, which demanded that she resign or at the very least recuse herself from cases involving the presidential race and related matters. (She did not.)

But the Journal has made no such demand of Alito. Instead, right-wing media are awash with pieces about how the "left" is smearing the poor man.

This is the same defense trotted out by supporters of Justice Clarence Thomas, whose wealthy patrons have lavished him and his wife, Ginni, with a bonanza of hundreds of thousands of dollars in trips, private school tuition for a relative, an expensive RV and who knows what other blandishments. The Journal called ProPublica's bombshell investigation of Thomas a "phony ethics assault."

Unlike Ginsburg, Alito has not apologized for flying the flags nor, come to think of it, for failing to disclose that he accepted a 2008 trip to a luxury fishing lodge in Alaska from Republican donors, one of whom had an interest in cases before the court.

Instead, like his much-criticized colleague Thomas, he has responded with petulance.

Senate Judiciary Committee Chair Richard Durbin of Illinois and member Sheldon Whitehouse of Rhode Island last week

See **SAMUEL** on Page 7



**EDITORIAL POLICY**

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

# The military buildup—housing, cultural, and economic insecurity in exchange for military security

**G**uahan has been down this road before—the buildup followed by the let down and then it starts all over again. It is part of the political economy of Guam. This is the marriage between political policy and economic activity. Our island's political economy is essentially organized around military spending, its promotion and its protection. The political leadership and economic players of the island band together to present a view of the economy which crowds out other possibilities under the logic that there are none. There is no real path to economic self-sufficiency.

They also crowd out criticisms of the trajectory of economic activity, especially when its military features are highlighted along a range of options. In other words, if you critique the military buildup, the response is quick and unforgiving—ranging from being unappreciative of the military, naive about real threats to peace to being unpatriotic, even disloyal. These are the triple threats of counter arguments which keep critiques or even analysis of the military buildup at bay.

It is the 360-degree shield against incoming critical missiles.

I was once at a ceremony at Andersen Air Force Base. It is common for many to proclaim that the noise of jets taking on and off is really not discordant, but rather the sound of freedom. In this instance, one local military supporter proclaimed exactly that—another local economy player (with large contracts) chimed in with “kaching, kaching.”

The political economy of Guam tells us that we only have two options available to us—tourism and military spending. The political economy of Guam informs us that these are threatened by discussions which seek to limit foreign labor, raise the minimum wage or support union activities amongst workers. The economy is too important to let worker advocates take center stage. We seek exemptions from foreign labor requirements to bring in more and exemptions from federal labor standards to pay our professional workers less.

If we express concern about being threatened with destruction, then we are told that this is the price we pay for being loyal Americans. If we seek to reduce foreign labor, we are told that this is only a temporary measure which dates back almost 80 years. If we worry about the consequences of a large and sudden military increase in the island, we are told that it will work itself out one way or another.

But we are at the edge of this sudden surge which really isn't so sudden after all. This was discussed as part of a large-scale agreement back as far as 2009 when the Marines were to be moved from Okinawa pursuant to the Guam agreement

**SAMUEL**

From page 6

asked Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr. to direct Alito to recuse himself from any cases related to the 2020 presidential election and the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the Capitol, which of course include the question of whether former President Trump has immunity from prosecution.

“The Court's Code of Conduct has failed to redress or prevent any of these ethics violations, largely because it contains no enforcement mechanism,” they wrote.

Last year, the committee advanced a bill, the Supreme Court Ethics, Recusal and Transparency Act, that has yet to be taken up by the whole Senate and may never come to a vote given that body's antiquated rules. The bill would require the justices to adopt a strict code of ethics and create a process for investigating and addressing alleged violations.

The court, whose credibility is near an all-time low, should have taken this step without prodding.

I had a good chuckle when I read in the Journal that “the people undermining confidence in the Supreme Court are those acting as if Justice Alito is sending secret signals from the flagpole at his beach house.”

You've got to be kidding, guys. There's nothing secret about it.

with Japan and the United States as signatories. Added to that is the Chinese missile threat, the North Korean nuclear menace, and the prospect of war over Taiwan and we get the activities which are now arrayed before us; base construction and augmentation; offensive missile batteries and an anticipated 40% growth of the military population over the next 13 years.

The centerpiece of this is the intense interest and planning for a missile defense system for the island—360 degrees or so we are told. This is an absolute priority for the Indo-Pacific theatre in order to ensure the capacity of the island to respond to a future attack. We are told that it is kind of an “Iron Dome” but in reality, it isn't. Most scientists and many analysts have expressed concerns that this will not work as planned, but perhaps what is really meant is that it will not work as advertised. But it will work as planned if we knew what the plan actually was.

The 360-degree shield will not protect the island from a missile attack, but it will buy enough time for a counter strike from Guam-based military assets. Perhaps it will give the island an additional 30-60 minutes. If that is the plan, then the system will fulfill its purpose. In the prelude, assets can be dispersed to other areas like Tinian, Yap, and maybe even Palau.

I asked a two-star army general about this during last year's scoping meetings. He said that the planned additional missile defense batteries (15 or 21) will also put the Army personnel at risk. This was in response to the question I asked about the risks that the Guam community will face in such an attack. I told him that the Army personnel signed up for that risk. I don't think the Guam community did.

In a conversation about the political status and power of Guam with some missile defense experts and analysts, one of them blurted out that Guam's lack of political representation in Washington, D.C. actually makes the case for more than just saying there is no consent of the governed in laws or policies which applies to all territories. This powerlessness is recognized as a violation of the core American principle of consent of the governed. This is best understood in the original phrase which animated the American Revolution—no taxation without representation. In Guam's case, the statement “annihilation without representation” might be most appropriate.

I want to make sure that any statement, even challenging ones here today, are made with the most profound respect for people in uniform. I honor the sacrifices that they make on behalf of security for the United States and its interests around the world. But it is a human institution in which mistakes can and do happen; it is also an intense endeavor that self-justifies almost all of its activities under the logic of military security against which we are almost powerless to argue against. The Guam buildup has attracted attention by military planners, military contractors, and strategic planners who suddenly see new relevance and dollars for their projects which have been placed on the backburner by the Pentagon. This is the full blossoming of the military industrial complex at work—the national political economy at its most active.

The effects of the Guam buildup are many and disruptive to our economy and our society. We have seen the disruption of cultural sites, the further endangering of endangered species and a revamping of firing range plans which will disrupt utilizing

The fishing grounds off the coast of Litekyan or Ritidian. Disruption and disturbance is one thing.

But altering the course of the lives of our young people is quite another. The housing situation appears to be totally in disarray. The desire to create an environment of strategic balance and military security has exacerbated a vast amount of housing insecurity on Guam. According to the 2019 Guam Housing Study and Needs Assessment of 31,000 residences, the situation with local families appears to be beyond crisis proportions. Today, if a family of four with a median family income of \$74,000 is looking for a 3-bedroom home, the housing cost (with utilities) will be \$3,000 monthly or 47% (nearly half) of the income. The median family income in-

By **ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD**

Special to the Saipan Tribune



*Robert A. Underwood served as the delegate from Guam to the U.S. House of Representatives from 1993 to 2003. He delivered this speech last May 28 before the Rotary Club of Tumon Bay.*

cludes more than one wage earner. The end result is overcrowding which means families are doubling up, tripling up, and living in multigenerational residences at a rate that is nearly tripled the average in the United States. Overcrowding is estimated to be almost double that of Hawaii's. Homelessness is constant and is now family based.

The consequences to the quality of family life, educational achievement, mental and physical health are significant.

Add to this the speculation generated by substantial subsidies for cost-based reimbursements to service members which with utilities could rise to \$3,500. Some returning service members get the benefits for one location while purchasing another. Some of us are encouraged by advertisements to purchase homes for the expressed purpose of tapping onto this market.

In the meantime, there doesn't appear to be large scale public housing plans. In the 2024 NDAA, there is a requirement for the secretary of defense to report on the housing situation in Guam for military personnel by December 1, 2024. An earlier provision had been watered down. It called for DoD to contract with a federally funded research organization to conduct an independent assessment of the housing situation in Guam including an assessment of mitigating local conditions.” From independent study to a Congressional Report. The secretary of the Navy has also been given wide latitude to come up with plans for civilian employees associated with the renewed ship repair facility. This is the state of play for a housing situation that attracted far less attention than missile defense systems. It has finally made it into the NDADD, albeit in a less than satisfying way after over a decade of planning the buildup.

Housing insecurity and cultural resource insecurity could be justified as the price we in Guam are supposed to pay for the general security of the country and the region. But if that is really the case, wouldn't it be prudent to also begin planning for shelters to be built so that some of us can survive the initial and subsequent attacks by a Chinese assault. Just like housing insecurity, there is little planning for shelters. Add to this situation shelter insecurity.






All of this presents a very awkward situation which demands more than conversations or conferences with military commanders who are stationed here in Guam. It demands far reaching strategies to contemplate alternative economic opportunities and the development of mechanisms to get returns to Guam that are commensurate with its value to the overall strategic picture. It demands an NDAA which doesn't get sweetened with projects, but rather gets juiced with local authority. I have yet to see any of that on the horizon.

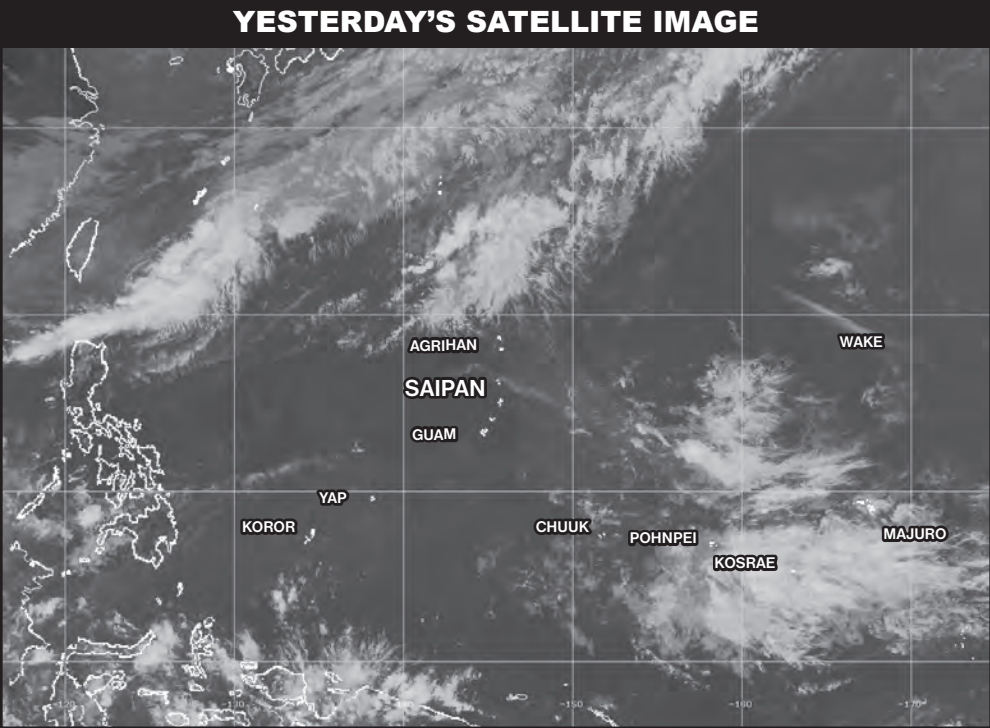
Of course, most elected officials will say we will exert leverage with the federal government in order to get the desired result, whether it is housing assistance, economic planning, a hospital, maybe even shelters. But exercising leverage implies that at some point you are going to withhold agreement and resist some plans going forward. No one has done that with the military in decades. and it was only successful in blocking the development of an ammunition wharf near Sella Bay 50 years ago with the late Paul Bordallo.

The question is do we understand how this can happen in the 21st century? Are we ready to arm ourselves with locally-based, independent and regionally-based analysis? I hope so. The future quality of the lives of young families depend upon it.



# The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY	
									
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.		Mostly cloudy with scattered showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.		Mostly cloudy. A 20 percent chance of showers.		Mostly cloudy. A 20 percent chance of showers.		Mostly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of showers.	
88°	77°	88°	78°	88°	78°	88°	78°	88°	78°



**PICTURE TIME: 5:51 AM MONDAY, JUNE 3, 2024**

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Light to gentle southeasterlies prevail, as satellite imagery indicates mostly clear skies over the region. The most recent altimetry passes indicate seas are about 3 feet.

*Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: <https://www.weather.gov/gum/>*

MICRONESIA			▲▼°F
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	86° / 78°	
Palau	Partly Cloudy	87° / 80°	
Yap	Partly Cloudy	87° / 79°	
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	87° / 80°	
Pohnpei	Mostly Cloudy	86° / 80°	
Kosrae	Mostly Cloudy	87° / 80°	
Majuro	Mostly Cloudy	85° / 80°	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:45 AM	6:44 PM
Wednesday	5:45 AM	6:45 PM
Thursday	5:45 AM	6:45 PM
Friday	5:45 AM	6:45 PM
Saturday	5:45 AM	6:46 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	3:24 AM	4:29 PM	-
Wednesday	4:11 AM	5:31 PM	-
Thursday	5:03 AM	6:35 PM	-
Friday	5:59 AM	7:37 PM	-
Saturday	6:57 AM	8:35 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲▼°F
Auckland	Showers	55° / 48°	
Beijing	Fair	90° / 64°	
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	86° / 74°	
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	88° / 75°	
London	Cloudy	73° / 54°	
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	73° / 58°	
Manila	Fair	97° / 83°	
Melbourne	Mostly Cloudy	57° / 48°	
Miami	Sunny	85° / 78°	
New York	Cloudy	80° / 65°	
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	77° / 61°	
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	79° / 57°	
Busan	Partly Cloudy	73° / 61°	
Rome	Mostly Sunny	73° / 61°	
Salem	Mostly Cloudy	91° / 67°	
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	61° / 51°	
Seoul	Sunny	80° / 58°	
Tokyo	Mostly Cloudy	73° / 60°	
Washington, DC	Cloudy	83° / 64°	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
4:53 AM	High Tide	2.21	
12:11 PM	Low Tide	-0.02	
7:05 PM	High Tide	1.97	
-	-	-	

**NEWS DESK** For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235.3740. E-mail: [editor@saipantribune.com](mailto:editor@saipantribune.com). Website:[www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com).

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## FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2024

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA076	9:50AM	10:35AM	Daily	UA174	8:00AM	8:50AM	Daily
SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
UA824	11:50AM	2:25PM	1, 3, 5	UA825	5:30PM	9:55PM	2, 4, 7
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	Daily	PR110	10:30PM	4:25AM+1	Daily
UA193	6:50PM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Palau	UA184	10:25PM	4:20AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA183	7:10PM	9:10PM	Daily	UA192	10:25PM	6:15AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
				UA184	11:50PM	5:45AM+1	2, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
7C3403/2305	4:45AM	10:20PM	Daily	UA192/174	10:25PM	8:50AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
UA076/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam	UA184/174	10:25PM	8:50AM +1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via Guam
UA076/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau	UA184/174	11:50PM	8:50AM +1	2, 5 via Guam
				7C2306/3406	11:10PM	3:10PM+1	Daily
SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)				INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	Daily	7C3406	9:30AM	3:10PM	Daily
7C3405	4:10PM	7:45PM	Daily	TW307	8:15PM	1:40AM+1	Daily
7C3403	4:45AM	8:35AM	Daily	7C3404	10:10PM	3:40AM+1	Daily
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
HX77	4:05AM	7:00AM	1, 5	HX76	7:25PM	2:35AM+1	4, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

## STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

### FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 2, 2024

SAIPAN TO ROTA					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	SAIPAN	ROTA	08:30	09:00	Daily
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	10:30	11:00	Daily
1303	SAIPAN	ROTA	15:30	16:00	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	ROTA	SAIPAN	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	11:30	12:00	Saturday & Sunday
3103	ROTA	SAIPAN	13:30	14:00	Monday To Friday
3104	ROTA	SAIPAN	16:30	17:00	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	ROTA	GUAM	11:30	12:00	Monday To Friday

GUAM TO ROTA					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	GUAM	ROTA	12:30	13:00	Monday To Friday

SAIPAN TO TINIAN					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1201	SAIPAN	TINIAN	7:30	7:45	Daily
1202	SAIPAN	TINIAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	SAIPAN	TINIAN	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	SAIPAN	TINIAN	10:00	10:15	Daily
1206	SAIPAN	TINIAN	14:00	14:15	Daily
1207	SAIPAN	TINIAN	15:00	15:15	Daily
1208	SAIPAN	TINIAN	16:00	16:15	Daily
1209	SAIPAN	TINIAN	17:00	17:15	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2101	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
2102	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	TINIAN	SAIPAN	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	TINIAN	SAIPAN	10:30	10:45	Daily
2106	TINIAN	SAIPAN	14:30	14:45	Daily
2107	TINIAN	SAIPAN	15:30	15:45	Daily
2108	TINIAN	SAIPAN	16:30	16:45	Daily
2109	TINIAN	SAIPAN	17:30	17:45	Daily



# Progress made to find new name for Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument

**HONOLULU, Hawaii**—The Udall Foundation's John S. McCain III National Center for Environmental Conflict Resolution (National Center) has announced the findings of its assessment detailing input gathered from a broad range of individuals and groups who are interested in renaming and the cultural recognition of the Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument.

The Pacific Remote Islands Coalition originally requested President Joe Biden to consider renaming the Monument. Department of Interior Secretary Deb Haaland then committed to the renaming process and it was reaffirmed by Biden through issuance of the Memorandum on Conserving the Natural and Cultural Heritage of the Pacific Remote Islands on March 24, 2023. The National Center's report will advise and inform the process to rename the Monument.

The report is a culmination of a nine-month effort to gather input about the potential renaming of the region. Over 65 individuals, including from more than 25 organizations and 16 states, nations, republics, commonwealths, territories and countries shared their feedback.

"We appreciate the Biden administration's action to engage Pacific Islanders in an inclusive process that will honor this area with a name that reflects its identity, unique history and cultural significance," said Solomon Pili Kaho'ohalahala, native Hawaiian elder and vice chair of the Pacific Remote Islands Coalition. "Place names are an important way to preserve knowledge about geography, history, and spiritual importance and our hope is to work alongside practitioners across Oceania to move the next steps of this process forward."

The assessment found that most participants agree that the area should be renamed,



An outrigger canoe sailing across Hawaiian waters

JT SORRELL

and that the renaming process should be inclusive of diverse voices and empower communities, especially Indigenous communities, with connections to the islands and ocean areas in and adjacent to the Monument. Almost all individuals who spoke with the National Center reportedly felt strongly that a collaborative and culturally appropriate process should be used to determine the name for the monument, refuges, as well as the islands and atolls and reefs within it.

The National Center's report and process include Indigenous Pacific Islanders, language and cultural experts from across the Pacific Islands. While the report outlines recommendations made for potential names and participants indicated a preference for one inspired by the island's history of navigation, no decision has been made yet.

"We are doing more than just renaming a monument," said report author and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Conservation planner Dr. Narrissa Brown during the webinar about the results on May 14, 2024. "It's about re-connecting people with their ocean and seascape of islands [...] so that we can all do what we can to help save this incredible place."

As part of the PRI Coal-

ition's ongoing efforts to expand protections for the Pacific Remote Islands with a sanctuary designation, the PRI Coalition continues to urge the Biden administration and its agencies to ensure Pacific Islanders are engaged in the process of identifying culturally appropriate names for this

significant area.

For more information on PRI Coalition's work to expand protections for the Pacific Remote Islands, visit <https://www.protectpri.com/our-proposal/>.

Follow updates from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for next steps on the renaming process or if you have contributions to share on renaming, reach out to the PRI Coalition.

## About the Pacific Remote Islands Coalition

In 2014, the Pacific Remote Islands Coalition formed to protect the cultural, natural

and historical legacy of these special islands, atolls and reefs. Given the area's important ecological and cultural value, it's urging the Biden administration to expand protections and designate the Pacific Remote Islands as a sanctuary. Its diverse network includes elders, fishers, educators, cultural practitioners, nonprofits, community groups, scientists, religious organizations, veterans as well as many others across the Pacific Islands and beyond. It's a coalition brought together by a love for the ocean that connects and sustains us. Learn more at [www.protectpri.com](https://www.protectpri.com). **(PR)**



LAURA M. BEAUREGARD

A booby face on the Palmyra Atoll of the Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument.

## » New report comes during Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islanders Heritage Month



KYDD POLLOCK

Blacktip sharks on the Palmyra Atoll of the Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument.

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Hafa Adai!

**Saipan Tribune**

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER



# Business

## Docomo Pacific appoints Baleto as new president, CEO

**TAMUNING, Guam**— Docomo Pacific has appointed Christine Baleto as its new president and chief executive officer. Baleto succeeds Rod Boss, who recently announced his retirement.

After six years of leadership, Boss has decided to embark on a new journey, relocating to Japan to focus on religious endeavors. During his tenure, the company achieved milestones and pushed through unprecedented challenges. A few remarkable company milestones achieved include:

- Being the first telecom company to launch 5G Mobile services in Guam and the CNMI.

- Pioneering the enhancement and deployment of direct fiber internet into homes and businesses.

- First telecom to provide an OTT Cable TV experience known as the dTV+ app in Guam and the CNMI.

"Today marks an exciting milestone in the history of Docomo Pacific as we announce

Christine Baleto's appointment as the new president and CEO. As the current chief financial officer and chief security and compliance officer, she has been an integral part of our leadership team since 2019, becoming the first



Baleto

woman to join our senior leadership team. With her elevation to this pivotal role, we're not just welcoming a seasoned leader but embracing the dawn of a new era as she again makes history as the first woman to assume the CEO role within Docomo Pacific," said Akihiro Hikuma, senior vice president and general manager of Network Department, NTT Docomo, Inc.

Baleto brings with her not only a wealth of experience but also a deep understanding of our region's unique challenges and rich history. As a descendant of Guam, she embodies a local touch that resonates with our community. She has an established career grounded here in Guam, spanning time served in the private, public, and non-profit sectors.

She is one with the community, proven through her public service as an active member of many civic and local boards over the years. Baleto recently joined the Guam Education Board, which is responsible for all policies that govern the Guam Department of Education. Before this, she served as the chairwoman of the Board for the Guam Chamber of Commerce for two years and was a board member for six years. She also served in many leadership roles with various non-profit organizations throughout the island.

"We extend our gratitude to Rod for his six-year service at the helm of Docomo Pacific, and we wish him every success in his future endeavors. We welcome Christine to her new role as president and CEO. Her proven leadership skills and vision align seamlessly with our mission and values. We have complete confidence in her ability to steer the company towards even greater success in the future," said Hikuma.

Baleto has served as the

CFO and chief security and compliance officer of Docomo Pacific. She assumed the CFO position in 2019 and the chief security and compliance officer position in 2023.

Prior to her employment with Docomo Pacific, she was the CFO for MidPac Distributors and the chief financial advisor to the board of its parent company, EC Development. She also served in the public sector as the director of the Department of



Boss

Administration in the Government of Guam, where she was appointed and confirmed by the Guam Legislature in 2016. As director, Baleto provided oversight and direction to the Government of Guam's Division of Accounts, Human Resources Division, General Services Agency, Office of Technology, and Treasurer of Guam.

Before serving the public sector, she was the general manager of Market Wholesale Distributors. This food distribution company represented well-known brands such as Smucker's, Kraft, Dole Ba-

nanas, and C2 Cool & Clean Teas. Under her leadership, the company was the recipient of numerous awards, including:

- 2012: Smucker's Special Achievement Award for superior performance and growth in sales

- 2008: Navy Exchange Guam recognition for the highest volume in sales per vendor, category, and stock-keeping unit (SKU)

- 2005: Distributor Award for Excellence from Kraft Foods International

- She was also personally recognized as the 2007 *Guam Business Magazine* Businesswoman of the Year.

In the non-profit sector, Baleto was the executive director of Sanctuary, Incorporated, an organization that provides services to runaway and homeless youth and their families. During her tenure, she obtained the resources and oversaw the building of permanent facilities for the organization and the establishment of an endowment fund.

Aside from employment, Baleto started her own company and received the award of master franchise rights for

the FROOTS brand in Guam and the Marianas. She owned and operated franchise stores in Guam, which employed 18 individuals. She continues operating the Andersen Air Force Base store and recently opened a new location in Agat.

Baleto has been married for over 34 years and has three children, two sons-in-law, and two grandsons.

For more information, you can reach out to Jared Roberto, Docomo Pacific's Public Relations manager at [pr@docomopacific.com](mailto:pr@docomopacific.com).

Docomo Pacific is a wholly owned subsidiary of NTT Docomo, Japan's leading mobile operator. Headquartered in Tamuning, Guam, Docomo Pacific is the largest provider of personal, residential, enterprise connectivity and entertainment services in Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands. Docomo Pacific is the seven-time winner of Best of The Pacific. Docomo Pacific is dedicated to bringing you and your family closer to the things that matter most. Get to know more about what makes us "Better Together" at [www.docomopacific.com](http://www.docomopacific.com). (PR)

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*Hafa Adai!*

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## Trump joins TikTok and calls it 'an honor'

Donald Trump has joined the popular video-sharing app TikTok, a platform he once tried to ban while in the White House, and posted from a UFC fight two days after he became the first former president and presumptive major party nominee in U.S. history to be found guilty on felony charges.

"It's an honor," Trump said in the TikTok video, which features footage of him waving to fans and posing for selfies at the Ultimate Fighting Championship fight in Newark, New Jersey, on Saturday night. The video ends with Trump telling the camera: "That was a good walk-on, right?"

By Sunday morning, Trump had amassed more than 1.1 million followers on the platform and the post had garnered more than 1 million likes and 24 million views.

"We will leave no front undefended and this represents the continued outreach to a younger audience consuming pro-Trump and anti-Biden content," Trump spokesman Steven Cheung said in a statement about the campaign's decision to join the platform.

"There's no place better than a UFC event to launch President Trump's Tik Tok, where he received a hero's welcome and thousands of fans cheered

him on," he added.

Democratic President Joe Biden signed legislation in April that could ban TikTok in the U.S., even as his campaign joined in February and has tried to work with influencers.

Trump received an enthusiastic welcome at the fight at Newark's Prudential Center, where the crowd broke into chants of "We love Trump!" and another insulting Biden with an expletive.

It was Trump's first public outing since a jury in New York found him guilty Thursday on 34 charges of falsifying business records as part of a scheme to illegally influence the 2016 election by covering up hush money payments made to a porn actor who claimed she and Trump had sex. Trump has maintained he did nothing wrong and plans to appeal the verdict. He will be sentenced on July 11.

Throughout his campaign, Trump has used appearances at UFC fights to project an image of strength and to try to appeal to potential voters who may not closely follow politics or engage with traditional news sources. It's also part of a broader effort to connect with young people and minority voters, particularly Latino and Black men. (AP)



Life & Style

'Garfield,' 'Furiosa' repeat atop box office charts as slow summer grinds on

By LINDSEY BAHR  
AP Film Writer

It was a quiet weekend at North American movie theaters, dominated once again by Sony's "The Garfield Movie," Warner Bros.' "Furiosa: A Mad Max Saga" and a slew of holdovers. Flipping the script from their Memorial weekend openings, the animated orange cat crept ahead of the wasteland warrior in their second outing.

"The Garfield Movie" earned a chart-topping \$14 million in ticket sales while "Furiosa" settled into third place in a close race with "IF," according to studio estimates on Sunday. Both "IF" and "Furiosa" are estimated to have earned \$10.8 million, with "IF" getting the slight edge.

"Garfield" fell only 42% in its second weekend in North America. It also topped the global box office adding \$27 million from international territories, bringing its running worldwide to \$152.2 million. The animated pic featuring the voice of Chris Pratt will essentially have the market to itself until "Inside Out 2" arrives on June 14.

"Furiosa," meanwhile, fell 59% from its first weekend, adding just under \$10.8 million from 3,864 locations in the U.S. and Canada. That puts its running domestic total at \$49.7 million and its global sum at \$114.4 million against a \$168 million production budget.

There were several new releases that opened on over 1,000 screens this weekend: Sony/Crunchyroll's anime "Haikyu!! The Dumpster



This image released by Sony Pictures shows Garfield, voiced by Chris Pratt, in a scene from the animated film "The Garfield Movie."

Battle"; IFC's horror "In a Violent Nature"; Roadside Attractions' Diane Keaton-Alfre Woodard-Kathy Bates comedy "Summer Camp"; And Bleecker Street's father-son drama "Ezra." None managed to crack the top five, however.

Disney also released the well-reviewed "Young Woman and the Sea," starring Daisy Ridley as the first woman to swim the English Channel, but did not report its ticket sales. Likewise, Richard Linklater's "Hit Man" is currently playing in select theaters around the country before it comes to streaming next week, but Netflix does not release box office numbers.

Second place went to Paramount's "IF," with \$10.8 million in its third weekend. John Krasinski's imaginary friends fantasy starring Ryan Reynolds and Cailey Fleming has now made over \$80.4 million domestically and \$138 million

worldwide. Disney/20th Century Studios' "Kingdom of the Planet of the Apes" landed in fourth place in its fourth weekend with \$8.8 million. It has now made \$140 million domestically and \$337.1 million globally.

And the Ryan Gosling and Emily Blunt action-comedy "The Fall Guy," which is currently available to purchase at home, rounded out the top five with \$4.2 million, bringing its domestic total to \$80.3 million. Globally, the Universal release has made \$157.9 million.

"Haikyu!! The Dumpster Battle," based on the Japanese high school volleyball series, made an estimated \$3.5 million from 1,119 locations. The slasher "In a Violent Nature" opened to \$2.2 million from 1,426 locations (a massive release for IFC Films and Shudder). And, "Ezra," about a stand-up comedian (Bobby Cannavale) and his autistic

son, earned \$1.2 million from 1,320 screens.

The 2024 box office is struggling compared to both last year (down 23.9%) and pre-pandemic standards (down 42.2% from 2019 and 46.4% from 2018), according to data from Comscore. On this weekend last year, "Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse" opened to \$120.7 million while "The Little Mermaid" was still pulling in over \$41.4 million in its second weekend. This year has yet to have any film open to over \$100 million domestically.

While "Barbie" and "Oppenheimer" had yet to storm theaters at this point last year, there had been several substantial hits including "The Super Mario Bros. Movie" (\$1.36 billion global total), "Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 3" (\$845.5 million) and "Fast X" (\$704.7 million).

"It should come as no sur-

prise given the nature of this year's trajectory that we are running this far behind," said Paul Dergarabedian, the senior media analyst for Comscore. "I understand why people are concerned about where this year is going, but it's never too late to get things running again."

"It's a momentum business," he added. "The attention right now is focused on what will be the big movie to get the summer moving in the right direction."

That big summer movie

could arrive in the form of "Inside Out 2," which could open to over \$85 million according to early projections, and propel other juggernauts like "Despicable Me 4" (July 3) and "Deadpool & Wolverine" (July 26).

Dergarabedian also noted that absent a big superhero movie, it's the family-oriented films that have been resonating recently. They might not open to the biggest numbers, but as "IF" and "The Gafield Movie" have proven, they have staying power.

Rupert Murdoch ties knot for 5th time in ceremony at his California vineyard

NEW YORK (AP)—Media magnate Rupert Murdoch, 93, has married for the fifth time, his corporation, News Corp, confirmed Sunday.

Murdoch and Elena Zhukova, a 67-year-old Russian-born retired molecular biologist, wed Saturday in a ceremony at his vineyard estate in Bel Air, California. Photographs of the newly married couple were released by News Corp. The couple announced their engagement in March.

Murdoch was most recently married to model and actor Jerry Hall. They were wed in 2016 and divorced in 2022.

Zhukova is the ex-wife of Alexander Zhukov, a billionaire energy investor and Russian politician. Their daughter, Dasha, was previously married to Russian billionaire Roman Abramovich, who used to own the Premier League soc-

cer club Chelsea.

Last fall, Murdoch stepped down as leader of both Fox News' parent company and his News Corp media holdings. His son, Lachlan, took his place in a media empire that spans continents and helped to shape modern American politics.

In 1952, Murdoch inherited a newspaper in his native Australia from his father. Over decades, he built a news and entertainment enterprise that became prominent in the United States and Britain, including ownership of such notable newspapers as The Times of London and The Wall Street Journal.

Fox News Channel, the 24-hour network founded in 1996, has profoundly influenced television, becoming a popular news source among many conservative U.S. audiences and politicians.

Angry daughter retaliates as mother halts the gravy train

DEAR ABBY: Over the course of 12 years, my husband and I have gifted more than \$400,000 in down-payment money to our adult daughter and her husband. Both are now in their mid-40s. I gave them most of this money behind my husband's back.

Recently, my daughter has been pressing me for more money, saying, "good grandparents/parents help their kids." I give them \$1,200 a month in cash and student loan payments, and I have done this for 10 years. I finally told my husband about my deceit, and he is being incredibly forgiving of me. He understands I have insecurity issues, and I worry about losing my daughter's love and contact with our grandchildren.

Two years ago, our daughter told us that due to our "difficult personalities," she needed boundaries, and my husband and I were allowed to visit only one week a year (they live 3,000 miles away). This came as a shock, since my husband cared for our grandchildren from birth until the family moved away when the kids were 4 and 6. We have traveled with them and thought we were close.

Given all this, I told my daughter I felt manipulated, and I was giving them a two-month notice before ending the monthly contributions. She has now cut off all contact with us—blocked all phones and social media. I'm devastated. I feel hopeless and I am seeking counseling. I can't shake the

feeling I'm at fault. Your thoughts?

BLOCKED IN WASHINGTON

DEAR BLOCKED: Your only "fault" rests with the fact that you gave your manipulative and ungrateful daughter a LOT of money and concealed it from your husband. You can't make someone love you by buying their affection. (It's either there or it isn't.) As you can see now, doing so was fruitless.

Your daughter is using your love for the grands to punish you for not forking over even more. (And she thinks YOU have a "difficult personality"? Wow!) I'm overjoyed that you will be discussing this sorry situation with a licensed mental health professional. It's the surest way I know of to quit blaming yourself and to regain your emotional balance.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I have a friend who, any time we ate out, if a server tried to take her empty plate, and others around her weren't done eating, would stick her hand out to prevent the server from taking her plate. She says it's rude to take a plate when others haven't finished their meal. I think it is rude for her to do that to the server. I have mentioned this to her only once and we've been friends for 30 years. What do you think?

DEAR ABBY

BY ABIGAIL VAN BUREN  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



DINING OUT IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR DINING: I don't think your friend is rude. According to Emily Post, when a server removes someone's plate before everyone is finished eating, it can leave the impression that those still eating are holding things up, and those who are done can be left feeling that they rushed the meal.

■■■

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby -- Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)



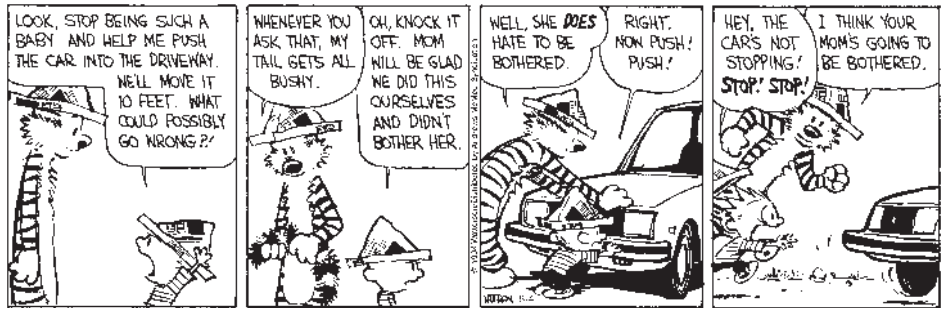
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

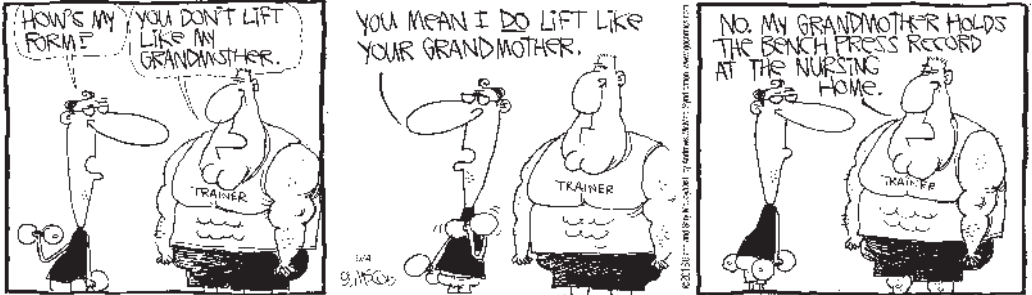
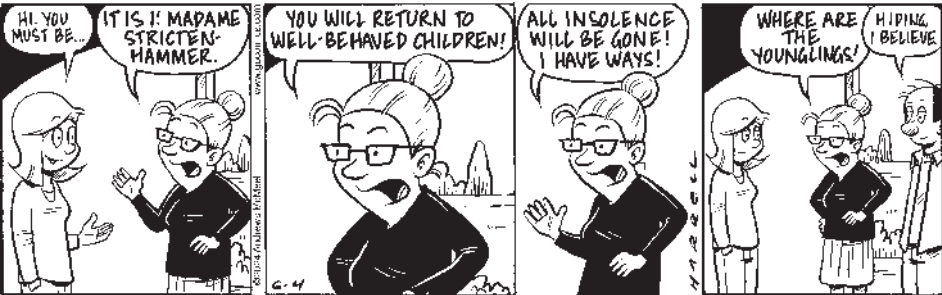


Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 1 Pub orders 5 Chum 8 Wild guess 12 Kots of "Today" 13 Nest egg letters 14 "Alfred" corn-poser 15 Sandwich filler 17 Bowling spot 18 Curly's brother 19 Short do 20 Kobe's country 21 Snip 22 Carried out 23 Seer's deck 26 ID worn on a sleeve 30 Colorless 31 Cyclades island 32 Follow orders 33 Reversal 35 Annika Sorenstam, for one 36 Covert agent

37 D.C. figure 38 Miserly 41 Task 42 Seasonal helper 45 Corridor 46 Steak-house station 48 Actress Jessica 49 Lupino of film 50 "Waterloo" group 51 Byway 52 Apiece 53 Whis-pered "Hey!"

4 Airline to Oslo 5 First episode 6 Spirited horse 7 Young bloke 8 Waldorf serving container 9 Links hazard 10 "Up in the Air" actress Kendrick 11 "It's — real!" 16 Border on 20 Comic Carrey 21 Leafy dish served with bacon and chicken

22 ER workers 23 Pro Bowl stats 24 Verb for you 25 Squealer 26 Fine, at NASA 27 Lincoln nickname 28 Nancy Drew's boyfriend 29 Use a henna rinse 31 Glacial 34 iPhone download 35 Buck-wheat noodles 37 "The — Express" 38 Scorch 39 Overhead light? 40 "The Wire" actor Idris 41 Green gem 42 Recedes 43 Chemists' rooms 44 Dorm alterna-tive 46 Use a straw 47 Fist bump

Solution time: 22 mins.

ASK VAC EDNA  
SLAV ABA XRAY  
AONE TIP CJTF  
FETRO TRUE  
YES INLAWS  
CRAWDAD ALGAE  
AAPE GOD ERIC  
STILT SIGNALS  
HEALCER MAT  
DEAN BJORN  
ZERO BOD OBIE  
FVAN IGA RFTA  
NAPE DON YFP

Yesterday's answer 6-4

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Bar Refaeli, 39; Russell Brand, 49; Angelina Jolie, 49; Noah Wyle, 53.

Happy Birthday: Take the initiative, evaluate who and what you want and need in your life, and eliminate dead weight. Channel your energy into what makes sense and brings the highest emotional, financial and physical return. Change is up to you, and it's time to recognize that your strength will trickle down to those you look out for and who count on you. Personal gain is heading your way. Your numbers are 9, 16, 21, 27, 33, 35, 43.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Too much too fast will get you in trouble. Don't buy into someone else's dream. An argument will deter you from accomplishing what you set out to do. Rethink your strategy before you sign up for something that will benefit someone else more than it will you. \*\*\*

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Put your money, time and effort into personal gain, and you'll attract interest and the help you require to move forward. Embrace change and be willing to try something new and exciting; however, don't invest your hard-earned cash. The gain will be what you learn, not what you earn. \*\*\*

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Research will open your mind to solutions and opportunities to make your life easier. Avoid anyone trying to push you into a slot that doesn't fit your agenda. Use your intelligence and resources to discover the best way to get your needs and wants met. \*\*\*

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Mix ingenuity, creativity and mastery, and you'll find the perfect balance to get where you want to go. Let your intuition lead the way, and use your connections to wiggle into the ideal position

conductive to getting your way. An emotional plea will pay off. \*\*\*\*

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Keep moving forward, regardless of any emotional intervention you encounter. Proceed confidently and protect yourself from anyone who tries to strong-arm you into something you don't want to pursue. Call in favors or offer incentives if necessary to ensure you meet your demands. \*\*

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Don't be fooled by the rhetoric and fall for a scam. Pay attention to detail, and be resourceful regarding buying and selling. Altering your agenda or how you think will make a difference to the treatment you receive. Believe in yourself and what you can do. \*\*\*\*\*

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Expand your mind, but don't indulge in overpriced events that require you to take on more than you can handle. If someone or something is limiting, consider taking a pass or a less aggressive path. An investment that offers financial stability looks inviting. \*\*\*

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Size up situations and consider what's beneficial. A change will spark your imagination and encourage you to find a unique way to use what you can offer at a premium. Don't sell yourself short; know your worth and refuse to let anyone devalue you. \*\*\*

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Domestic issues will surface if you don't set ground rules. Listen carefully and refuse to let exaggeration and inflated emotions seep into a situation or encounter. Negotiate on your behalf, know what you want and articulate your preferences. A partnership will require delicate handling. \*\*\*\*

EUGENIA LAST



THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): An unusual choice will turn out better than anticipated. Once you recognize what's making life difficult at home or in your community, how to fix the problem will be straightforward. Contacts will assist you. \*\*\*\*\*

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Make changes because you want them, not because someone is twisting your arm or being manipulative. Stick close to home and enforce discipline regarding medical and financial issues. Trust your inner voice when dealing with temptation. \*\*\*

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Set your sights on what you want, and don't stop until you reach your goal. Refrain from following the crowd or letting anyone sidetrack you. Impulsive expenditures will cost more than you anticipate. Keep your secrets, essential documents and identification in a safe place. \*\*\*\*

Birthday Baby: You are talkative, thoughtful and energetic. You are determined and persuasive.

⚡: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ⚡⚡: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ⚡⚡⚡: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ⚡⚡⚡⚡: Aim high; start new projects. ⚡⚡⚡⚡⚡: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

	4	6			1	2	9	7	
	7			9	6			4	
	9		4	7		6	5	1	
9		8	5			4			
6				8		7			
7						9			
	6			1		3		2	
3			2				6	9	
5	2		3					8	

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

8	9	5	7	3	1	6	2	4
6	7	4	2	8	9	5	1	3
3	1	2	5	6	4	9	7	8
9	2	3	6	5	8	1	4	7
1	8	6	4	2	7	3	9	5
5	4	7	1	9	3	2	8	6
4	6	8	9	1	5	7	3	2
7	5	1	3	4	2	8	6	9
2	3	9	8	7	6	4	5	1

Difficulty: ★★ 6/4  
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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

INSTACART IS SO CONVENIENT Solution: 9 letters

GHNEZORFAVORITE  
IAONLINEPICERBG  
FNRTSILAUTRIVA  
TDOOSAEREWARDSR  
CPORUEERP RCPPEE  
AIDLDTMHVSLRICV  
RCAAEEEOBIAIHNE  
DKONIHRLICCESEB  
EELORSOUTDOERI  
LDNSYANEMOLVENS  
ISWRMCMTRIOIBEI  
VPOEHNOTIFYRMVN  
EPDPACKAGENRENE  
RACCOUNT EKRAMOS  
YRECORGELEUDEHCS

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Account, Apps, Arrive, Beverage, Business, Convenience, Dairy, Delivery, Door, Download, Favorite, Fresh, Frozen, Gift Card, Grocery, Handpicked, Household, Item, List, Local, Lunch, Market, Meat, Membership, Notify, Online, Order, Package, Personal, Price, Recipe, Rewards, Route, Same Day, Schedule, Service, Subscribe, Virtual  
Yesterday's Answer: Gravel  
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# Rays avoid being swept with 4-3 victory over Orioles


**BALTIMORE**

(AP)—Jose Siri hit a two-run double in the eighth to put Tampa Bay ahead, Garrett Cleavinger escaped the bottom of the inning thanks to a bases-loaded double play, and the Rays avoided a sweep with a 4-3 win over the Baltimore Orioles on Sunday.

Gunnar Henderson hit his sixth leadoff homer of the season for the Orioles, who led 3-0 in the fourth before Tampa Bay's comeback. With the score 3-2, Dillon Tate (2-1) allowed two straight singles to start the eighth and then fell behind in the count against Siri, who was squaring around to bunt. Siri finally swung away at a 3-1 pitch and drove it to right-center field to put Tampa Bay on top.

Shawn Armstrong (2-1) won in relief, but Cleavinger nearly gave up the lead. With a man on first and one out, he walked Henderson — the Baltimore shortstop reached in all five of his plate appearances — and then allowed a single to left by Adley Rutschman.

Ramón Urias was held at third on that sharp hit, leaving the bases loaded, and then Ryan Mountcastle hit a roller to third on the first pitch.

Pete Fairbanks worked a slightly less stressful ninth, allowing one hit before securing his sixth save in seven chances.

## **NATIONALS 5, GUARDIANS 2**

**CLEVELAND** (AP)—Joey Meneses' two-run double keyed a four-run second inning and Jake Irvin pitched six strong innings to lead Washington to a victory over Cleveland.

Meneses' double to deep center field opened the scoring against Carlos Carrasco. Ildemaro Vargas and Lane Thomas had back-to-back RBI singles later in the second to put the Nationals up 4-0 as they avoided a series sweep.

That was enough support for Irvin (3-5), who allowed five hits and one walk while striking out six. Irvin had gone 1-3 in his previous five starts despite a 2.55 ERA.

The AL Central-leading Guardians' nine-game home winning streak, their longest since 2017, was snapped.

## **TWINS 4, ASTROS 3**

**HOUSTON** (AP)—Jose Miranda hit a solo homer in the sixth inning and a tiebreaking RBI double in the eighth, helping Minnesota top Houston.

Trevor Larnach also went deep for Minnesota, which took two of three in the weekend series. Steven Okert (2-0) got two outs for the win, and



Tampa Bay Rays' Richie Palacios runs towards home to score on a double by Jose Siri during the eighth inning of a baseball game against the Baltimore Orioles, Sunday, June 2, 2024, in Baltimore. AP

Jhoan Duran handled the ninth for his 10th save.

Miranda's sixth homer of the season—a one-out drive to left-center off Hunter Brown—tied it at 3.

Larnach reached on a lead-off walk in the eighth against Ryan Pressly (0-3). Pinch-runner Manuel Margot moved to second on a sacrifice bunt by Ryan Jeffers and then scored on Miranda's grounder down the third base line.

Larnach got Minnesota an early lead when he homered on Brown's fourth pitch of the game. The leadoff drive was Larnach's sixth homer this season.

## **BRAVES 3, ATHLETICS 1**

**ATLANTA** (AP)—Sean Murphy drove in the go-ahead run with a bloop double in the seventh inning and Atlanta limited Oakland to two hits in a win.

Charlie Morton allowed one hit in six scoreless innings, but he ended up with a no-decision when the A's tied the game in the top of the seventh inning on a home-run by Zack Gelof.

Murphy's double down the right-field line knocked in Adam Duval for what proved to be the winning run and allowed the Braves to take the series 2-1.

Morton had his best start of the season, walking five and hitting a batter. No A's batter reached third base during his outing.

Luis Medina was stellar for the A's in his first start of the season, lasting 5 2/3 innings and surrendering two hits and one unearned run. He had six strikeouts and two walks. Medina started the season on the injured list with a sprained right knee. He made three minor league appearances before starting Sunday.

## **RANGERS 6, MARLINS 0**

**MIAMI** (AP)—Andrew

Heaney threw six scoreless innings, Adolis García homered and singled and Texas beat Miami.

Jacob Latz, David Robertson and Grant Anderson pitched an inning each to finish the Rangers' second consecutive shutout win. It is the first time since September 2016 that the Rangers have back-to-back shutout wins.

Rangers shortstop Corey Seager singled in five at-bats to extend his hitting streak to 15 games. Seager also has a 25-game on-base streak.

Marcus Semien had three walks and singled, while Josh Smith had two hits for the Rangers.

Heaney (2-6) allowed four singles and struck out seven. It was his longest outing since also going six innings against Oakland on May 6.

## **BREWERS 6, WHITE SOX 3**

**MILWAUKEE** (AP)—Jackson Chourio hit a three-run homer and Milwaukee extended Chicago's slide to a season-high 11 games with a victory.

Gary Sánchez had a two-run single and left fielder Christian Yelich threw out the potential tying run at the plate in the eighth inning as the NL Central leaders completed a three-game sweep. Milwaukee (36-23) has won four in a row and seven of nine to move a season-best 13 games above .500.

Chicago has dropped 15 of 16 and owns the worst record in the majors at 15-45. Paul DeJong homered and drove in two runs for the White Sox, who are on the longest losing streak in the big leagues this year.

Freddy Peralta (4-3) struck out seven over five innings for his first win since April 30 against Tampa Bay.

Batting ninth, Chourio sent a first-pitch slider from starter

Nick Nastrini (0-5) into the second level of seats in left field for the prized rookie's sixth home run. The drive followed an RBI double by Jake Bauers and gave the Brewers a 4-2 lead in the second.

## **DIAMONDBACKS 5, METS 4**

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Ketel Marte hit a leadoff homer and then a go-ahead, two-run shot in the ninth inning that lifted Arizona over New York for a four-game split.

Brandon Nimmo and J.D. Martinez combined to drive in three runs with consecutive triples in a four-run third against Arizona starter Brandon Pfaadt, but the Mets lost for the sixth time since May 1 when leading after eight innings.

Entering the day, no other team in the majors had lost more than twice during that stretch when taking a lead into the ninth.

Pinch-hitter Gabriel Moreno doubled to open the ninth against Jake Diekman (1-2) and Marte hit a 439-foot drive to center field for his 12th home run this season and seventh career multi-homer game. It was Arizona's first hit in eight at-bats with runners in scoring position.

Marte also homered to center off Jose Quintana on the game's third pitch.

## **BLUE JAYS 5, PIRATES 4**

**TORONTO** (AP)—Daniel Vogelbach had two hits and two RBIs, Chris Bassitt pitched five innings to remain unbeaten in five career starts against Pittsburgh and Toronto won.

Vladimir Guerrero Jr. and Davis Schneider each had an RBI and Daulton Varsho scored twice as the Blue Jays took two of three from Pittsburgh.

Bassitt (6-6) allowed three runs and eight hits, extending

his winning streak to three starts. He walked one and struck out seven.

The Pirates put at least one runner on base in every inning against Bassitt but the right-hander pitched out of jams, escaping a bases-loaded situation in the second.

## **TIGERS 8, RED SOX 4, 10 INNINGS**

**BOSTON** (AP)—Javier Báez's two-run single highlighted a four-run 10th inning and Detroit beat Boston.

Rafael Devers had a game-tying solo homer, RBI triple and sliding play to his left on Matt Vierling's grounder for the Red Sox, who were a major league-best 9-0 on Sundays.

Wenceel Pérez added three hits, drove in a run and scored another on a close play for the Tigers, who won for just the third time in their last 15 games against Boston.

## **REDS 5, CUBS 2**

**CHICAGO** (AP)—TJ Friedl hit a three-run homer, Nick Lodolo pitched six effective innings and Cincinnati beat slumping Chicago.

Jake Fraley had three hits for Cincinnati, which took two of three in the weekend series. Spencer Steer and Jeimer Candelario each had two hits.

Lodolo (5-2) allowed two runs and seven hits in his second straight win. The left-hander struck out three and walked one.

Nick Martinez tossed two scoreless innings for Cincinnati before Alexis Díaz got three outs for his 12th save.

## **ROYALS 4, PADRES 3**

**KANSAS CITY, Mo.** (AP)—Nick Loftin hit a walk-off sacrifice fly, Nelson Velázquez hit two RBIs and Kansas City defeated San Diego.

Loftin's sacrifice fly came after Velázquez pinch-hit a game-tying, two-run triple with no outs in the ninth. Velázquez finished the series with four RBIs.

The Padres won the series, but Kansas City avoided the sweep. The Royals have not been swept this season and ended a three-game skid.

## **DODGERS 4, ROCKIES 0**

**LOS ANGELES** (AP)—Mookie Betts and Freddie Freeman homered in the first inning, Gavin Stone had another strong outing and Los Angeles beat Colorado.

Betts hit his fourth leadoff homer this season. Two batters later, Freeman went deep off Colorado's Austin Gomber, the eighth time the Dodgers have homered at least twice in an inning.

Freeman also scored

twice and drove in two runs for the Dodgers, who have won five of six.

## **MARINERS 5, ANGELS 1**

**SEATTLE** (AP)—Luis Castillo threw seven shutout innings, Mitch Garver hit a three-run double and Seattle beat Los Angeles for a sweep of their weekend series.

Castillo was brilliant in his first win since May 12. The right-hander struck out six and walked three — all on 3-2 pitches.

Castillo (5-6) surrendered two hits on Taylor Ward's double in the first and Kyren Paris' broken-bat single in the third. It was his third occasion this season when he threw at least seven shutout innings while allowing three hits or less.

The Mariners had shut out the Angels for 19 straight innings before shortstop J.P. Crawford's first error of the season led to a run in the ninth on Zach Neto's two-out single. Before that, the Angels' only runs in the three games had come on Jo Adell's grand slam in the seventh on Friday.

## **YANKEES 7, GIANTS 5**

**SAN FRANCISCO** (AP)—Juan Soto homered twice, including a go-ahead drive in a four-run ninth inning against All-Star closer Camilo Doval, and New York rallied past San Francisco.

Giants starter Blake Snell, a two-time Cy Young Award winner, exited in the fifth with an apparent groin injury and will undergo an MRI.

Aaron Judge added two singles while extending his on-base streak to 29 games as the AL East-leading Yankees won their fifth straight and completed a 7-2 trip to three cities in California with a three-game sweep at Oracle Park.

## **CARDINALS 5, PHILLIES 4, 10 INNINGS**

**PHILADELPHIA** (AP)—Nolan Gorman hit an early two-run homer and a tiebreaking single in the 10th inning to lead St. Louis over Philadelphia.

Gorman ripped a two-out single to right field off Gregory Soto (1-3) to score the automatic runner in the 10th and help St. Louis avoid a series sweep. The Cardinals had lost their last six games in Philadelphia.

Cardinals reliever Ryan Helsley struck out Nick Castellanos for his 19th save, stranding automatic runner Bryce Harper at third base and ending Philadelphia's three-game winning streak.

John King (2-1) tossed a scoreless inning of relief for the win.



# Injured Porzingis on track for return as Celtics prepare for NBA



**BOSTON (AP)** — Whether injured Celtics

center Kristaps Porzingis will be ready in time for the start of the NBA Finals this week is still to be determined.

But signs are pointing to him being able to return to the court sooner rather than later during Boston's matchup with the Dallas Mavericks.

The 7-footer hasn't appeared in a game since sus-

taining a strained left calf in Game 4 of Boston's first-round playoff series against Miami on April 29.

But 4-1 victories over the Heat and Cleveland in the second round, followed by a 4-0 sweep of Indiana in the Eastern Conference finals, have given the Latvian extended recovery time.

Celtics coach Joe Mazzulla has refrained from making predictions on when he expects Porzingis to be avail-



Boston Celtics guard Payton Pritchard, left, guard Derrick White, center, and center Kristaps Porzingis, right, watch from the bench as the Cleveland Cavaliers lead the Celtics during the second half of Game 2 of an NBA basketball second-round playoff series, Thursday, May 9, 2024, in Boston.

## Irving said late in the season that Mavs were just getting started. He was right

By **TIM REYNOLDS**  
AP Basketball Writer

Kyrie Irving was not making a threat, nor was he boasting, nor was he saying anything that would be considered outlandish. It was the final week of the regular season. He and the Dallas Mavericks had just clinched a division title and Irving was asked to talk about what it means.

He didn't look back. He looked ahead.

"We just know that the job isn't finished," Irving said in Miami that night. "And we're just getting started."

Turns out, he was right. The Mavericks—who spent most of February and March looking destined for the play-in tournament, a team that was barely better than a mediocre 26-23 after 49 games—figured things out just in time, and a trip to the NBA Finals is their reward.

Dallas will visit Boston in Game 1 of the NBA Finals on Thursday night. It's a matchup of the teams with the NBA's two best records since Feb. 1; Boston has gone 39-9 in that span, Dallas 36-15. Boston also had the best record in the league before Feb. 1 (37-11), while Dallas was only 14th best in that stretch (26-22).

"It doesn't happen a lot of times (where) you go from the lottery to the finals," Mavericks coach Jason Kidd said. "But we truly believe that we had the pieces."

A year ago, they didn't. When this season started, they didn't have all the pieces they needed, either. But since swinging trades for Daniel Gafford and P.J. Washington in February, the Mavericks have been one of the best teams in the league—and going 16-2 in one late stretch of the regular season only

reinforced Irving's belief that something good was happening.

"That's the type of confidence that I felt the majority of this playoffs, just no matter what's going on—in the beginning of the game, middle of the game, before the game—our words of affirmation and positivity go a long way," Irving said.

In the current NBA playoff format, which goes back to 1984, Dallas is only the fifth team seeded No. 5 in its conference or lower to make the finals. Miami did it last year as a No. 8 seed, Miami did it again in 2020 as a No. 5 seed, New York did it in 1999 as a No. 8 seed and Houston did it in 1995 as a No. 6 seed. Of those teams, only the Rockets went on to win a title.

But this Dallas team has been playing as well as anybody.

The Mavericks are 11-1 in these playoffs when they score more than 100 points. They've won five in a row on the road during this postseason run, matching their longest such streak from the regular season. They have a player in Irving who has won the finals before, a coach in Kidd who won a title as a player—with Dallas, no less—and arguably the best player in this postseason in Luka Doncic, who is headed to the title series for the first time.

Irving was right. The Mavs were just getting started. And now, they have a chance for the perfect finish.

"I think we've got a great team," Doncic said. "But most importantly, we've got great guys, some great guys on the team. From players to coaches, everybody on the team, we have great guys and that's the most important thing. We stay together and we just play basketball."

able. But he was clear that his team is better with Porzingis in the lineup, despite compiling a 9-1 record without him this postseason.

"When KP is at his best, he's been tremendous for us and we expect that from him and we know he'll give that to us," Mazzulla said.

Porzingis last spoke publicly on May 4, saying of the injury, "It's something, it's not nothing," and adding that it would take "a little bit of time" to recover from.

His official status since then has been day to day as he slowly began rehabbing for a chance to face the Mavericks team he played for from 2019-22.

Porzingis took to social media this week to provide his most significant update, posting on the X platform, "I'll be back in the lineup very soon. See you in the finals."

Two days later, when the doors were opened to the media Friday after a practice session, Porzingis was one of only a handful of players still on the court, going through

extended 3-point shooting drills with assistant coaches and trainers. He wore a compression sleeve on his injured left leg.

Then, on Saturday he participated in light 5-on-5 play with his teammates—his most extensive on-court workout since sustaining his injury.

Mazzulla said Porzingis "did everything the team did" during Saturday's practice and was expected to go through a more intense session on Sunday.

Assuming he clears that benchmark, it would mark the most promising sign yet that the Celtics could soon get back the the scorer and rim protector that Boston traded longtime stalwart Marcus Smart for this past offseason.

When healthy, Porzingis has provided on both ends of the floor, averaging 20.1 points, 7.2 rebounds and 1.9 blocks during the regular season while appearing in 57 games. Before his injury in the Miami series, he averaged 14.0 points, 5.7 rebounds and 1.5 blocks.

Porzingis missed seven games earlier this season with what the team called left calf injuries. He also missed time with a smattering of other issues this season, from inflammation and bruises in his right knee, right hamstring problems, a sprained left ankle and a sore back.

Those ailments added up to 25 missed games in which Boston went 21-4.

Celtics guard Derrick White, who was voted to the NBA All-Defensive third team along with teammate Jrue Holiday, said Porzingis' presence on the defensive end is hard to replicate.

"He does a great job of just making things difficult," White said. "It's always nice to know that he's back there, whether he blocks or he doesn't block. He makes them think about it. That's been really great having him on our side, just doing the things he did day in and day out. Once he comes back and gets in the flow I think it's going to be nice."

Holiday said one of the

reasons the Celtics have been able to excel without Porzingis during this stretch is because they remember what it was like going through those periods during the regular season without him.

"I go back to the regular season where sometimes KP was out and Al (Horford) was in and vice versa. We literally went through it before," Holiday said. "We kind of went through all scenarios before of what could happen or what would happen or whatever. And it kind of shows."

That said, Holiday said the preference is to have him available when the finals tip off on Thursday. He doesn't think re-integrating him back into the lineup will be an issue.

"KP is one of the best scorers. He's one of our best rim protectors," Holiday said. "And I feel like we're all mature enough to get back in the groove or have him fit right back in whenever he comes back. And we do want KP back. We can't wait for him to be back and be a part of this on the court."

## Source: Pelicans will use final Lakers' 1st-round pick from Anthony Davis trade in 2025

**NEW ORLEANS (AP)**—The New Orleans Pelicans have opted to wait until 2025 to use the last of the three first-round draft choices they received from the Los Angeles Lakers as part of the 2019 Anthony Davis trade, a person familiar with the decision told The Associated Press.

The person spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity Saturday because no announcement had been made

about the decision, which means the Lakers will retain their selection in the first round of this year's draft on June 26, when they are slated to pick 17th overall.

It also leaves the Pelicans with only their own first-round pick at No. 21 in this year's draft.

Under the terms of the Davis trade, the Pelicans cannot wait beyond 2025 to use the pick, which is the last remain-

ing Lakers asset they are owed from that deal.

The blockbuster trade shortly before the 2019 draft sent the Pelicans three Lakers players: Brandon Ingram, Lonzo Ball and Josh Hart. Only Ingram remains with New Orleans, but he is entering the final season of his contract.

The Pelicans won the draft lottery in 2019, when they selected Duke star forward Zion Williamson first overall. They

then used the Lakers' No. 4 overall pick in a trade for the eighth and 17th overall picks, as well as the 35th overall choice in the second round.

With those, they drafted center Jaxson Hayes, guard Nickeil Alexander-Walker and guard Didi Louzada, none of whom are still with the Pelicans.

New Orleans used a second Lakers' first-round pick in 2022 to select Australian wing Dyson Daniels eighth overall.



# No marathons as Swiatek and Gauff sprint into quarterfinals

**PARIS (AP)**—After the French Open marathon came the sprints.

Defending champion Iga Swiatek swept into the quarterfinals at Roland Garros in just 40 minutes after a crushing 6-0, 6-0 win against Anastasia Potapova.

U.S. Open champion Coco Gauff took only 60 minutes to rout unseeded Italian Elisabetta Cocciaretto to 6-1, 6-2.

The 20-year-old American looked set for an even quicker victory when she led 5-0, but Cocciaretto fought back, getting a hearty cheer from the crowd after winning the next game.

Swiatek wound up with 48 points to just 10 for Potapova. The match ended when Potapova hit a forehand into the net on the first match point.

"I was just really focused and in the zone," Swiatek said. "It went pretty quickly, pretty weird."



Poland's Iga Swiatek celebrates after defeating Russia's Anastasia Potapova during their fourth round match of the French Open tennis tournament at the Roland Garros stadium in Paris, Sunday, June 2, 2024.

Their match started at around 11 a.m. on Court Philippe Chatrier.

That's just eight hours after men's defending champion Novak Djokovic

finished his five-set, 4 1/2-hour marathon against Lorenzo Musetti just after 3 a.m. in the latest finish in tournament history.

Swiatek said late finishes don't just end with the match and are not healthy.

"Usually it takes us, like, four hours to even chill, and you need to do recovery, media. It's not like the work ends with the match point," she said. "I was always one of the players that said that we should start a little bit earlier."

Gauff thinks the issue needs to be addressed.

"It's a complicated thing," she said. "But I definitely think for the health and safety of the players it would be in the sport's best interest to try to avoid those matches finishing, or starting, after a certain time."

Gauff says there's also a fine balance to be struck.

"Obviously I don't want to complain too much about it because we are very blessed and privileged to be playing for a lot of money. There's people working real jobs under worse

conditions for less money and just trying to get by," she said. "It's just tough for me knowing where some of my family come from and where things are, and I think about the people hearing this. Yes, if I was a person working, I would be upset to hear, you know, players complain."

Potapova attributed her crushing defeat to the constant rain delays in recent days sapping her energy.

"Unfortunately in the last couple of days I started feeling not well, eating not well. Last night I did not get an hour of sleep. It's very tough to be honest. Especially when you want to play good you have to try to keep everything inside," she said. "But unfortunately if you keep it inside it doesn't go away, it just keeps growing. The stress inside my body kept growing and unfortunately today was the day when it exploded."

Saturday didn't help much. "Yesterday I spent all day on site because I had doubles. We came at 9:00 (a.m.) and at 7:00 p.m. it got (postponed). I spent all day here without hitting a ball," she said. "That's not the preparation for the fourth round of a grand slam against the world number one."

## LONE

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it off. The derby was initially set for March 23, but there was a small craft advisory.

Last Saturday, however, he said the weather was great. "It was really nice. We had ideal conditions for this derby and the support, the participants came out—26 strong. Twenty-six went out and 26 came home safely. That's what makes this successful."

He added that the students who helped lead the derby did their best despite a challenging year for everyone. "It was a challenge, but the community came out with the support and I'm thankful for all of them and making it

happen for the students," he said.

He also thanked the students from Saipan and Rota who he said did a "tremendous job" with the derby.

As for the derby chair, Rastavana Wenio, she said despite the event being pushed back, the turnout was pretty good. "Everybody did their best, did their part, and showed up," she said.

She then thanked the students for their hard work and their advisors for guiding them.

The Wahoo in the Marianas is Tasi To Table's yearly fishing derby that is hosted by, and for, TTT's student members. Funds raised from the derby will go towards TTT's student program.

The major sponsors of the derby were AK Toyota, Mobil Oil Marianas, and IT&E.



Third place crew of boat *Ronin*, with captain Billy Grow, holding fish, pose with members of Tasi To Table during the awards ceremony of the 5th Annual Wahoo in the Marianas, last Saturday at the Smiling Cove Marina.

## ITF

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Australia, U.S., Great Britain, and Chinese-Taipei—as they vied for ITF points.

An ITF J30 event is a junior event with 30 world ranking points for the winner. It is the entry level event for emerging tennis players who are trying to acquire world ranking points to be accepted on the professional tour or win a scholarship to a U.S. college.

With that, Race said it was great exposure for NMI netters who joined the tourney: Simon Tang, June Yu, David Kwon, Matthew Hwang, Henry Choi, Ryan Choi, and Siwoo Lee, Serin and Irin Chung, Anne Lee, Hoo Wang, and Hannah Chae.

"It's really important for our program to have this tournament because of several reasons: It gives our kids a

chance to get a world ranking so that's good for them. That means if they want to go and play in these tournaments elsewhere, it'd be much easier for them to get into either the main draw of the qualifying draw," said Race.

Overall, he said, "All of our kids who were at least 13 years old had the opportunity to join the tournament so it's a good experience for them and I think it's also very motivating."

As for how the tourney turned out, he said that the weather turned out great and cooperated besides a slight delay due to rain last Saturday.

Also, the level of competition "has been very high level," said Race. "All these players in the finals have a pretty good level of world ranking, so the competition was very close overall. I think that a lot of our junior players have been watching so they get to see what the level is and where they need to get to."

With athletes from all over the world converging in the CNMI for this tourney, Race was asked about how this contributed to sports tourism in the CNMI. He said, "This is what we should be doing. We—the government, [the Marianas Visitors Authority], the hotels, should be supporting sports tourism. I think that sports tourism is a really important niche for tourism here for us because we're close to Asian countries. I think the more we do it, the more we become known for it, and then more events come here."

Oceania Tennis Federation referee Patrick O'Rourke from New Zealand, for his part, said that the return of the tourney in the CNMI, "had very good numbers and very good standard. I'm sure Jeff and his team will be very pleased."

He said that the CNMI was on the world circuit for the first time more than 10 years ago. He said that Guam

and CNMI tournaments have always been one after the other, usually in the month of May.

"This year, in the last two weeks, we were in Guam [for the 2024 Citadel Guam World Tour], and this week, (last week) we're here... it might be around the same time next year, but it's up to Jeff and CNMI tennis to talk with Guam tennis and sort out dates and apply for the tournaments next year," said O'Rourke.

Race then thanked the tourney's sponsor IT&E, along with referees from Oceania Tennis, Patrick and Linda O'Rourke, Tan Holdings, Lydia Tan, umpires Nicky Nichols and Colin Ramsey, Jessie Jeoung, Pacific Islands Club Saipan, Sarka Jambor, Fayce El-Karaa Sunny Yim, Topnotch, Bobby Cruz, and Dr. Gary Ramsey. "Unfortunately, I'm sure I probably left someone out but thank you all!" said Race.

## JIREH

From page 16

third place went to Shawna Brennfleck who clocked in at 57:23.

For Wang, 18-year-old Agape Christian School incoming senior, this is the second Grotto 10K he's joined. He said it was challenging, but called upon "Lord Jesus to help

me finish the race."

Toward the end of the course, he said that the second-place runner, O'Sullivan, was a few meters behind him but that he gathered his strength and pushed to the finish line to claim first place.

Miller, for her part, said, "It's been a while since I last ran a race in April. I only did easy jogging for the last two months, but I decided to run a

race to keep my motivation."

In the beginning of the course, she said, "Running up that steep hill was hard on my legs and breathing, but I'm happy with my result." She added she's also happy that there were a lot of runners, especially young athletes who joined the race.

"Thank you to Run Saipan and all volunteers for organizing the event," she added.

Results of the age divisions will be posted in the next issues of *Saipan Tribune*.

The sponsor of the race was AP Group LLC., which includes DreamPlay, Napu Brewing Co., Tapped Out, AP Energy, AP Solutions, NF-Xpress, along with IT&E and Run Saipan partners Northern Marianas Athletics and Saipan International School.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES				
MLB STANDINGS				
AMERICAN LEAGUE				
East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	42	19	.689	—
Baltimore	37	20	.649	3
Boston	30	30	.500	11 1/2
Tampa Bay	29	31	.483	12 1/2
Toronto	28	30	.483	12 1/2
Central Division				
Cleveland	39	20	.661	—
Kansas City	36	25	.590	4
Minnesota	33	26	.559	6
Detroit	29	30	.492	10
Chicago	15	45	.250	24 1/2
West Division				
Seattle	34	27	.557	—
Texas	29	30	.492	4
Houston	26	34	.433	7 1/2
Oakland	24	37	.393	10
Los Angeles	21	38	.356	12
NATIONAL LEAGUE				
East Division				
Philadelphia	41	19	.683	—
Atlanta	33	24	.579	6 1/2
Washington	27	31	.466	13
New York	24	35	.407	16 1/2
Miami	21	39	.350	20
Central Division				
Milwaukee	36	23	.610	—
St. Louis	28	29	.491	7
Chicago	29	31	.483	7 1/2
Pittsburgh	27	32	.458	9
Cincinnati	26	33	.441	10
West Division				
Los Angeles	38	23	.623	—
San Diego	32	30	.516	6 1/2
San Francisco	29	31	.483	8 1/2
Arizona	27	32	.458	10
Colorado	21	37	.362	15 1/2

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS





Rays avoid being swept with 4-3 victory over Orioles  
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# Saipan Tribune Sports

No marathons as Swiatek and Gauff sprint into quarterfinals  
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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

## Jireh, Akiko fastest in Grotto 10K



LEIGH GASES

First place overall, Agape Christian School's Jireh Wang, runs down the last stretch of hills heading down to the Grotto parking lot last Saturday during the 2024 Run Saipan Grotto 10K.



LEIGH GASES

First place in the women's division, Akiko Miller, smiles for the camera as she runs down the last stretch of hills heading down to the Grotto parking lot last Saturday during the 2024 Run Saipan Grotto 10K.

By LEIGH GASES  
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REPORTER



**R**un Saipan's grueling 10K course—the Grotto to 10K—was topped by student-athlete Jireh Wang and veteran runner Akiko Miller last Saturday.

The third edition had 78 registered participants in the course that snaked through Saipan's wild and scenic north—from the Grotto entrance, to Bird Island Lookout, Kalabera Cave, and back.

Wang was the fastest runner as he zoomed into first place

with a time of 42:07. Second was Jody O'Sullivan at 43:48, and third place went to Chad Taflinger at 46:07.

Miller's time grabbed her first place in the women's division at 46:37. Second to her was An Bang at 56:11, and

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Participants of the 2024 Run Saipan Grotto 10K pose for a group photo at the start/finish line at the Grotto parking lot last Saturday morning.

'Great opportunity for NMI tennis to host ITF tourney again'

By LEIGH GASES  
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REPORTER



The recently concluded International Tennis Federation J30 Junior World Ranking Tournament (IT&E Northern Marianas Junior Championships) that was held from last Tuesday to Sunday at the Pacific



LEIGH GASES

The NMI's Hannah Chae goes for a return during her girls singles match last Tuesday in the International Tennis Federation J30 Junior World Ranking Tournament (IT&E Northern Marianas Junior Championships) at the Pacific Islands Club tennis courts.

## Lone catch snags 1st place in TTT's 5th Wahoo Derby



LEIGH GASES

First place crew of boat *Fangoti*, with captain John Jack Pua, center holding plaque and check, pose with members of Tasi To Table including president Gene Weaver, far left, and event sponsor from AK Toyota, Kevin Barnes, far left, during the awards ceremony of the 5th Annual Wahoo in the Marianas, last Saturday at the Smiling Cove Marina.

By LEIGH GASES  
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REPORTER



The lone catch of the *Fangoti* snagged them first place in the Tasi To Table's student-led fishing derby, the Wahoo in the Marianas, last Saturday at the Smiling Cove Marina.

Their 19.7-lb wahoo was enough to net them the \$2,000 cash prize in the fifth

edition of the derby.

Second place and \$1,500 went to MV *Gloria's* 17.1-lb wahoo, captained by John T. Sablan, while third place and \$1,000 was won by *Ronin*, captained by Billy Grow for their 15.7-lb wahoo.

Fourth place and the total weight winner was *Ruby Fishing* for their 13.6-lb haul.

*Fangoti's* captain was Jack John Pua and crewmembers Alvir Masga and Eddie Demei. Pua said they cruised to

the north side of the island and reeled the fish in around 8am, just two hours into the derby. He said the fight wasn't that long, but Demei said that was their only catch of the day—and it turned out to be the biggest in the derby.

Pua said they plan to split the winnings and that they donated their catch to TTT. He then thanked TTT for setting up the event.

Sablan, captain of MV *Gloria*, said that they won first place last year and that

they are the record-holder of the heaviest wahoo ever when they reeled in a whopping 54-lb wahoo in 2008 during the Saipan International Fishing Tournament.

This derby, he said, "Is a good event. The youth are doing a good job. Gene Weaver is doing a good job in leading them."

TTT president Gene Weaver, for his part, said that after the derby's postponement, he was glad they finally pulled

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LEIGH GASES

Second place crew of boat *MV Gloria*, with captain John T. Sablan, center in orange, pose with members of Tasi To Table during the awards ceremony of the 5th Annual Wahoo in the Marianas, last Saturday at the Smiling Cove Marina.



LEIGH GASES

A junior netter eyes the ball before smashing a return during a doubles matchup last Thursday in the International Tennis Federation J30 Junior World Ranking Tournament (IT&E Northern Marianas Junior Championships) at the Pacific Islands Club tennis courts.